







**Headmaster reveals horror of scouring the mounds of dead and dying children for survivors after killer ran amok in gym class**



Class P1 of Dunblane Primary School, near Stirling, and their teacher, Gwen Mayor — 16 children and Mrs Mayor died when gunman Thomas Hamilton opened fire on them

# 'Evil visited us. We don't know why'

Erland Clouston, Vivek Chandury and Alex Bellas

**T**his headmaster of Dunblane Primary School described yesterday for the first time how he ran to the school gym to find a scene of carnage where 16 of his pupils and a teacher lay dead or dying.

Ron Taylor, aged 45, who was first to arrive, echoed the shock and disbelief of the small Scottish town: "Evil visited us. We don't know why; we don't understand it, and I guess we never will."

He told how he feverishly checked over the mounds of children's bodies to see who had not been fatally injured. "We tried to identify those who were still alive and those whose wounds could be treated. We did what we could. We tried to stop the blood. The ones injured were still conscious and very distressed."

He added: "I still feel deeply shocked and still very, very distressed. My thoughts and the thoughts of my staff are obviously with the friends and families whose lives have been devastated by the appalling incident."

As Dunblane was yesterday coming to terms with the scale of the tragedy, seven survivors, including five children, were said to be making

good progress at Stirling Royal Infirmary.

One boy in intensive care has multiple wounds to his chest, foot and eye. Although still critically ill, his condition had stabilised last night, and doctors hoped to operate on the eye. Another is expected to be taken off a ventilator soon. A girl, who has a fractured thigh, was moved from intensive care to an orthopaedic ward.

Steve and Beverley Birnie, whose son Matthew has bullet wounds to shoulder and chest, said: "He's been able to speak to us and he's very curious about what's going on. The staff have been excellent. He was in X-ray and he wanted to know why they were taking pictures of his insides."

Mr Birnie, a business manager for a drugs company, said he was on his way to Dundee when his company director rang to tell him of the shootings. "I phoned Dunblane police station to find out if it was a primary or secondary school. I think every parent thought that there was a one in 700 chance it could have been their child."

"When I found out that it was my little boy's class, the numbness just started."

He said: "It's very difficult to have feelings, because I can't understand it. I don't really know what to feel. I can't understand anyone who would do this."

Tom Weir said his son Stewart was being very vague about the incident. "He is a bright wee kid and luckily he did a runner. He said a man pointed a gun at him. He felt his leg but kept on going. He knows his teacher is dead and he seems to be holding up well. I don't want to push him about it. I want him to tell me himself. Once he gets home I think he will start asking questions."

One of the children killed was the daughter of Dr Kathryn Morton, who was on duty as the dead and injured were brought to the hospital.

Another couple, Willie and Karen Turner, yesterday spoke of a five-hour wait at the school before they learned their daughter Megan was among the victims.

Mrs Turner said: "Minutes seemed like hours and then turned into hours. There was no information, the waiting seemed to go on for ever. The parents of injured children seemed to be told earlier, but it was 2pm before we were finally told that Megan was gone. None of the parents were brought together. We all went in at different times. It would just have been too much to bear."

All night and all yesterday, tributes arrived in Dunblane from all over the world. Flowers, teddy bears and messages were placed at the school gates. One read: "May God

take better care of you than this world ever did. From all the people in our office who cried for you today." Another simply read "Why?"

As police carried out a "full ballistic and forensic examination" of Central Scotland's chief constable, William Wilson, himself a resident of Dunblane, said he was not looking for anyone else in connection with the tragedy but that Scottish legal constraints prevented him from divulging more.

In the town centre, most shops were closed and many friends and relatives of the bereaved sought solace in the 13th century cathedral, which is to hold a vigil tonight.

The Reverend Jim Benson, of Balquidder Parish Church, said he saw tears, shock but little anger as he and colleagues counselled distraught families.

"Some were articulate and wanted to talk immediately. Some were just in a state of shock. I saw one family whose little girl had lost nine friends. After such a shock as that, people are not able to speak. Their questions will come later."

By midday, a leaflet from Central region's social work department appeared on the counters of the few shops remaining open. Headed Dunblane Primary School Incident, it warned: "At first you may feel numb. The event

may seem unreal, like a dream, something that has not really happened."

Mike Ransom, director of social work for Central region, said they had received 120 requests for assistance on the special helpline.

At the Post Office a fax from Gretar Oddsson of Iceland was taped to the window. "Please convey my deepest sympathy to all the inhabitants of your community." On the pavement opposite Harry Wright sadly fanned out a wad of condolences sent to Dunblane from Hawaii, China, the Netherlands and Canada on the internet. "I am taking them up to the school so that they will be available to the parents and staff."

The dead: Victoria Clydesdale; Emma Crozier; Melissa Currie; Charlotte Dunn; Kevin Hassel; Ross Irvine; David Kerr; Mihari McBeath; Brett McKinnon; Ais; Abigail McLennan; Emily Morton; Sophie North; John Petrie; Joanna Ross; Hannah Scott; Megan Turner; and teacher Gwen Mayor, 45.

The injured: Annie Adams; Coll Austin; Matthew Birnie; Amy Hutchison; Ryan Liddell; Mark Mullan; Andrew O'Donnell; Victoria Porteous; Robert Purves; Benjamin Vallance; Stewart Weir, six; and two teachers Mary Blake and Eileen Harlid, 44.

## 'Sweet child who always had smile on face'

**A**FEW weeks ago six-year-old Charlotte Dunn wrote to old schoolfriends in Cradley, West Midlands saying that she "loved it in Scotland but was missing everybody". On Wednesday the girl whom former neighbours described as "a sweet child who always had a smile on her face" was shot dead.

She moved to Dunblane six months ago with her family, and was due to go back in less than a month when her father finished his work for a water purifying company in Stirling.

"The family were hoping to come back in time for Easter and Charlotte was going to restart school and join her old class and friends," said former neighbour Angela Jones.

Friends and family travelled from the Midlands to comfort the Duns, whose house in Dunblane had the curtains drawn yesterday. Relatives said they were too distraught to talk.

AS Robbie Hurst was dropped off at the school gates he told his grandfather Jackie: "I love Wednesdays grandpa, because it's PE today." An hour later five-year-old Robbie, an only child, was taken away from

the murder scene with his gym kit drenched in blood, but without a scratch.

When Thomas Hamilton sprayed the gymnasium with gunfire he had dived for cover behind the lifeless body of his best friend, Kevin Hassel.

Once Hamilton turned his gun on himself teachers ran into the gymnasium to find Robbie, nicknamed Chumkie because of his big build, in deep shock. He was taken to hospital, followed by his parents Billy and Janette.

Robbie's 70-year-old grandfather, Jackie Hurst, who had left him at the school gates said yesterday: "Lord only knows how he will ever get over something like this. The awful thing is that Robbie doesn't know that Kevin has gone."

WHEN Stewart Weir saw Hamilton wielding his gun he started to run for cover. But Hamilton saw him and fired a shot that caught him below the knee.

Stewart's father, Robert, said at the moment the boy looked on Wednesday as an "adventure", but he would be shattered when he realised his friends were not coming back.

"My son has been very vague about it all and I don't want to push him about it. I want him to tell me himself."

"He is a bright wee kid and luckily he did a runner. He knows his teacher is dead and he seems to be holding up well. Once he gets home I think he will start asking questions."

Talking of the wait to find out if Stewart, who will be six on Sunday, was dead or alive Mr Weir, aged 31, said: "I just wasn't rational in the things I was saying. I was desperate to find out how he was ... whether he was dead."

## Police and clubs call for calm amid firearms outcry

**Gun laws**

**Court appeals help keep licence refusals to 1pc**

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

**O**NLY 1 per cent of people who apply for firearms certificates are rejected, according to police and Home Office figures. The statistics are likely to be used in the growing call for a tightening of the law on the issuing of licences.

But politicians, police and gun club officials appealed yesterday for a period of reflection before any changes are made.

Currently chief constables must be satisfied that gun licence applicants are not prohibited from possessing guns under the Firearms Act, and are not "of intemperate habits or unsound mind". Police must also be satisfied that public safety will not be endangered and there is a good reason for requiring firearms. The regulations say: "All applicants are subject to a full background check to enforce these standards."

Forms must be countersigned by a British resident who has known the applicant



The Stirling gun shop where Hamilton bought his weapons

and Galloway, stressed that firearms were not a big factor in crime in Scotland. In 1994, 8 per cent of homicides involved the use of a firearm.

The Firearms Consultative Committee (FCC), which was set up after the 1987 Hungerford shooting to advise the Government on gun laws, met yesterday, but indicated it would not make any recommendations until after the fatal accident inquiry in Scotland.

The committee is chaired by Lord Shrewsbury and includes a member of the National Rifle Association, the Chief Constable of Grampian in Scotland, a representative of the Crown Prosecution Service, a QC, an official of the Imperial War Museum, a member of the Home Office, and a representative of game and clay pigeon shooters.

Gun clubs in Britain have also come under scrutiny. There are 2,300 clubs nationally and 80 in Scotland.

A gun club is required to have a written constitution, principal officers who are responsible people, and at least 10 members who are of good character and entitled to hold a certificate.

Patrick Johnson, secretary of the British Shooting Sports Council, said blaming guns for the shooting was like blaming Henry Ford for every fatal road accident. He said: "You cannot legislate for one individual act of this nature. The Home Office has been unable to identify any substantial link between lawfully held guns and crime, except in one or two exceptional incidents."

**Gun facts**

Firearms: 31,952 issued in Scotland, 1994. Certificates have to be renewed every five years.

2,005 were new applications of which 23 were revoked.

Shotguns: 70,424 issued in Scotland, 1994. Certificates have to be renewed every five years.

3,663 were new applications of which 36 were refused, 61 were revoked.

**Impact on crime**

Per cent of crimes involving firearms in Scotland, 1994.

Homicides	8%
Attempted murder	7%
Robbery	7%
Assault	Unsettled

In 57% of firearm offences, the main firearm used was an air weapon.

**Gun clubs**

There are 2,300 in the UK, 80 in Scotland.

- The club is a genuine rifle or pistol club with a written constitution.
- Principal officers are "responsible people."
- Must have at least 10 members.
- All members must be of "good character" and must sign form saying they are not prohibited from possessing a firearm.
- Must provide secure storage facilities for firearms.
- Before becoming a full member, individuals must serve a probationary period of at least three months. The period may be waived for someone who is already a full member of another approved club or holds a firearms certificate.
- Club approval covers target practice only for full-bore rifles, full-bore pistols, small-bore rifles and small-bore pistols.
- Approval lasts for six years. When the Secretary of State grants approval, the club pays a fee of £24.

**Ireland Hopping**

Win a short break to the Emerald Isle in "Life in Ireland" free this Sunday in the Observer

ST PATRICK'S DAY

THE WORLD OF THOMAS HAMILTON

Revenge of the misfit

poison

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outside



# THE WORLD OF THOMAS HAMILTON

Hamilton had been hostile and unapproachable for many years. In a confused childhood, he had been brought up to believe his mother, Agnes, was his older sister. . .



## Revenge of the misfit poisoned by years on the outside

Owen Bowcott, Peter Heatherington and Duncan Campbell

ON JANUARY 26 this year, Thomas Hamilton sat down in his scruffy, damp Kent Road flat in Stirling and tapped out what was to be one of his final angry complaints against the world. Less than two months later he acted out the revenge he sought against a society that had "contaminated" and "poisoned" people against him.

In his neatly typed letter to the education convener of Central Regional council, he assumed the role of a "pervert" that he was a "pervert". When "previously happy people are poisoned in this way they become hostile and unapproachable," he warned.

Hamilton had been hostile and unapproachable himself for many years. In a confused childhood, he had been brought up to believe that his mother, Agnes, was his older sister. His "parents" were, in fact, his grandparents, Jim and Kate Hamilton.

His real father, Thomas Watt, now aged 65, last saw his son when he was 18 months old when he and Hamilton's mother broke up. He has since remarried and has four children. Yes, says Mr Watt, now living in Glasgow, was still finding what had happened impossible to believe. "I brought this monster into the world. How do I tell my two daughters and my two sons that this monster is their half brother?"

Hamilton's grandfather, Jim, now aged 88, whose wife died in 1988, left the Kent Road flat to be shared with his grandson after a row. He has not spoken to him for four years.

Hamilton's mother, Agnes, said she did not recognise the killer as her son. She said she had never known him to be angry or to bear a grudge. "He seemed to get on with everybody that I know of," she said.

But Hamilton's big problem was that he hardly got on with anyone. He was in his early twenties when he suffered his first major rebuff,

being removed from the Scout Association in 1974, less than a year after he had become a leader. The grudge he felt at his dismissal never left him.

He was expelled because he was seen as irresponsible rather than because of any sexual malpractice. John Fogg, of the Scout Association, described why he was asked to leave. "His expulsion followed two weekend camps to the Avonmore area in 1974. During the first weekend Hamilton claimed that he and a party of eight boys had been booked into a hostel in the area. Inquiries revealed this to be untrue.

"Hamilton and the boys had in fact slept in the back of a van. The van had frozen overnight in the inclement weather and had to be towed to a garage. The boys were found to have been extremely cold after an uncomfortable night."

On a second occasion parents complained that their sons had been asked to dig snow holes and had been cold and soaked. It was decided that Hamilton was unsuitable material.

Former Scout Commissioner Corrie Deuchars, now aged 68, also remembers the young Hamilton. "His organising skills were dismal. He was not right for the job. There was no planning to his activities. He was in it for selfish reasons rather than the interests of the boys."

Mr Deuchars, a retired British Rail worker who is now a lollipop man in Stirling, said he knew of no improper behaviour on the part of Hamilton and had no misgivings when Hamilton started up his own youth clubs after leaving the Scouts.

Ever since that departure, Hamilton pursued his twin interests of boys clubs and guns. Despite the rumours and misgivings of parents, he was surprisingly successful in setting up clubs and recruiting members.

One 15-year-old from Stirling, who attended Hamilton's clubs held at both Burnockburn High and Dunblane High schools described what became the standard procedure in the clubs. "He used to say to us 'You should take off your T-shirts and have bare tops'. So you would just have

your shorts on. He used to say 'Let's see who has the best build, and you can be captain of the football team'."

A 13-year-old said: "He was really mad about fitness. He would video the gymnastics. My dad banned me from going. He used to say to me 'You can come around and see my gun'. I thought he was a right weirdo."

Thomas Hamilton hired school halls — usually the gym — from three separate local authorities to run sports clubs for boys over a period of at least 10 years. One by one they became anxious about his activities and terminated the agreement.

After Central Region council decided it would no longer

Three children had run away, apparently because of the stringency of the training. There was no suggestion of sexual abuse, but councillors had heard other stories too.

Tom Dair, then education chairman and now vice convener of Fife regional council, took the decision to cease the lets. "There was nothing tangible that we would want to draw to the attention of the police. We were made aware of those videos he was taking and the photographs of the youngsters. It was more of an instinctive response to a number of things that had been building up."

Fife had encouraged Hamilton to set up a parental support organisation for his ac-

who has revealed that the killer came for advice to his surrogates. "He was one of my regular correspondents."

Mr Forsyth said he had discussed Hamilton with police but they were unable to find evidence against him which could result in a prosecution.

In his letter to the minister, headed "Boys Sports Club Group Committee" — an organisation which has been described as a figment of Hamilton's imagination — he writes: "Mr Forsyth, in 20 years of operation of our lawful activity, there has never been any law-breaking or any suggestion of sexual child abuse from any boys against either myself or any of my leaders."

in the mid-1980s reported finding gun pellets at the rear of the premises.

"It was a terrible mess when we took over. There wasn't a ceiling and there were wires all over the place," said Gholam Haider yesterday. "Only a room at the back, which looked like he had set up a mini gymnasium, was clean. It looked like he had used some of the back of the shop for target practice. There were gun pellets lying on the floor and he had a board for targets which he took away when he left."

The president of Stirling Rifle and Pistol Club, George Smith, confirmed that Hamilton had been a member since at least 1987. "He was an infrequent visitor to the Whinstone Rifle Range where we do target practice."

"He was always very courteous but didn't have much to say for himself. How do you know when someone is going to flip their lid and do something like this? From what I saw he was a pretty good shot and like a lot of members had semi-automatic pistols and kept them at home."

Other gun clubs were less well disposed towards him. Raymond Reid, secretary of the Callander Gun Club, yesterday confirmed that they had turned down his application for membership this year. "It's quite common practice to be a member of more than one gun club but I knew of his involvement with the Scout movement and the youth clubs of his own founding," Mr Reid said.

Hamilton, he said, had owned two nine millimetre semi-automatic pistols, one of them a Browning, a .357

revolver, and a fourth handgun. His firearms certificate, No. 0004586, was in order.

He had also been a long-standing customer of D Crockett and Sons, a sporting guns and fishing tackle shop in King Street in Stirling, where he regularly bought ammunition. Robert Bell, the proprietor, said yesterday that he had known Hamilton for the last 15 years. "We have had dealings with him under the Firearms Act, which covers both weapons and ammunition," an evidently shaken Mr Bell confirmed. "He seemed quite normal at the time. His certificate was correct in every respect and whenever we dealt with him there were no problems."

But Hamilton was privately raging. He blamed the council for the collapse of his kitchen fitment business which he had run for 14 years. He believed that the publicity over his council action damaged his trade and he started signing on.

He moved into photography, mainly so that he could take pictures of the boys in his charge. He was banned from his local camera shop, who refused to develop his film. Instead he had to take it to professional film processors in Glasgow.

Staff at Ronnie Kilpatrick's camera shop in Stirling knew him well. He owned professional camera gear worth thousands of pounds and bought and sold equipment privately. He would advertise in Amateur Photographer but with little success. No one wanted to know him.

All the while, Thomas Hamilton nursed his wrath to keep it warm.



Thomas Hamilton . . . "He seemed quite normal. Whenever we dealt with him there were no problems." But all the time he was raging

"I can't live with this. I can't take it. I brought this monster into the world."

— Thomas Watt, Hamilton's father

"He used to say to me 'You can come around and see my gun'. I thought he was a right weirdo."

— Scott Edgar, aged 15, who attended Hamilton's clubs

"I told him that as far as I was concerned he was a pervert and should not be in charge of boys. At that he produced this gun and pointed it at me, saying it was loaded."

— Doreen Hagger, mother of boy who attended Hamilton's 1989 summer camp

"He was a sad guy, completely isolated and obsessed with young boys."

— Photo-journalist who visited Hamilton's house

"We know he kept guns. He bragged to us about it."

— Helen Peters, who lives opposite Hamilton's home.

"He was very secretive. You never saw him."

— Robert Ure, a neighbour

"He seemed to get on with everybody that I know of. I never thought for one minute that he'd do anything like that."

Agnes Hamilton, the killer's mother



allow the Dunblane Rovers to meet in the high school in 1983 — a decision that the ombudsman ruled was wrong in the following year — Hamilton approached Fife regional council on behalf of what he called the Boys Sport Clubs Group Committee.

Fife let him the gym in two schools in the area between 1986 and 1992 for weekly sessions of five-a-side football and gymnastics for boys aged eight to 11. The clubs were monitored, said the council's spokeswoman, and they had no cause for concern. But in 1992, the council heard of complaints from parents over a summer camp that Hamilton had held in Dunblane.

When they heard of the ban, said Mr Dair, "some parents wrote to me in irate terms suggesting I had overreacted. I wish they'd been correct. I wish my judgment had been 100 per cent wrong."

He spoke to Hamilton about the matter on the phone and expected anger or arrogance, but there was nothing, he said. "He just seemed very cold — almost neutral." Hamilton complained to the ombudsman, but this time was rejected, because he had refused to meet councillors to explain himself.

One regular recipient of Hamilton's anxious pleading was the local MP and Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth,

"I know that sexual child abuse must be identified and the abusers rooted out as a matter of national priority and this, in concept, is wholeheartedly supported by the general public."

In another letter to parents last August, Hamilton referred to persistent rumours about him circulating in Dunblane. "I am writing to briefly explain matters and dispel any myths and gossip."

He was clearly unconvincing in his attempts. Doreen Hagger, aged 40, whose son had attended his camp, confronted Hamilton after she discovered that the boys were forced to run around naked,

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News in brief

Government denies bypass cash hitch

THE Highways Agency yesterday dismissed press claims that road builders may not bid for the main construction work on the £100 million Newbury bypass because the Government cannot afford to pay for it all at once.

Editor for leftwing journal

IAN Hargreaves, aged 44, former editor of the Independent, was confirmed yesterday as the new editor of the New Statesman.

Pilot 'a public nuisance'

A SHOW-OFF RAF pilot who buzzed the Kent village of Staple in his Hawk jet trainer was yesterday branded a public nuisance by a military court.

BBC drama chief quits

CHARLES Denton, who presided over the renaissance of BBC TV's drama output, yesterday said he was stepping down after three years.

Shape of the nineties

NINETIES woman is expanding her waistline along with her professional horizons, according to yesterday's Cosmopolitan.



An already impeccably groomed contestant gets the finishing touch at Cruft's dog show, which began at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre yesterday

Labour rebellion over terrorism law

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR suffered one of his biggest rebellions since becoming Labour Party leader when 25 Labour MPs, including two former shadow Northern Ireland ministers, defied the whip and opposed the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

party to abstain, ending 14 years of outright opposition to the act. Voting was 222 to 28, a Government majority of 196.

Labour leadership of moral cowardice for not having the courage of their convictions and calling for an outright vote in favour of the PTA.

His abandonment of the bipartisan tone on Ireland angered Mr Straw who said afterwards: "Thank God Mr Howard has been kept away from the peace process because if he had not, it would never have got under way."

dependent judicial inquiry into the future of anti-terrorist laws. In an attempt to reduce last night's rebellion, Mr Straw attacked the continuing use of exclusion orders and the detention for as long as seven days without judicial review.

tency and sought to undercut Mr Straw's explanation for Labour's shift. He said Lord Lloyd's review had no relevance to yesterday's renewal of the PTA orders since its findings would only be introduced "if and when there is a permanent peace in Northern Ireland".

After two years of abortive attempts to reach a deal with the Government on the PTA, Mr Straw announced a fortnight ago that Labour would abstain on the act because the Government had set up an in-

defunct IRA ceasefire. Mr Howard had announced that a review would be completed by the autumn by Lord Lloyd of Berwick. But Mr Howard accused Labour of inconstis-

charged or convicted of offences in their own country. Whitehall acknowledges that extending the conspiracy laws to activities outside Britain is a highly sensitive political question which also goes to the heart of extra-territorial jurisdiction — an issue on which Britain and other European Union countries have often clashed with the United States.

Major vows crackdown on foreign 'activists'

Ian Black and Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government is to crack down on foreign terrorism activists who do not use Britain to promote violence abroad or even foster dissent, John Major pledged yesterday.

which creates a climate in which terrorism can flourish. Clearly influenced by the case of Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi Arabian Islamic militant, the Government has tried but so far failed to deport to Dominica — he said: "If people... use the UK as a base from which to conduct their own particular activities against another government, particularly a friendly government, then that is a matter we have to look at very carefully."

It is already an offence under the Prevention of Terrorism Act to raise funds for terrorist activities outside Britain. However, the prosecution has to prove that organisations here know their funds were being used for terrorist activities.

Speaking after returning from Wednesday's Middle East summit of peace-makers in the Eilat, the Prime Minister said new laws could be introduced to curb terrorist or related activity, though there would have to be firm evidence of wrongdoing. But he admitted the issue was delicate.

The Home Office is already conducting a review of conspiracy and incitement laws to see if they could be extended to offences committed outside Britain. A spokesman said yesterday that the review would be completed by the summer.

The need to get evidence reflects Whitehall's cautious reaction to last week's decision by the Charity Commissioners — under Foreign Office pressure — to freeze the assets of Interpal, the London-based Palestinian Relief and Development Fund.

In remarks which are likely to cause concern about civil liberties, he told BBC Radio: "It may be that the time has come to look at the activities not only of those who actively conspire to commit terrorist acts but also those who from safe havens abroad foster dissent elsewhere in a way

The Government has been under pressure from a number of countries — including France, Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia — to take tougher action against political exiles and asylum-seekers

Leader comment, page 8

Duel over earldom ends well for young pretender

David Pallister on a family feud over succession to the earldom of Selkirk



Hamilton, and himself became the 3rd duke. He resigned the earldom but it was granted to one of his sons in 1688.

SIR Malcolm Rognvald James of Edingight, Lord Lyon King of Arms, handed down his judgment yesterday and a 17-year-old youth was £260,000 the richer.

Title fight victor Lord James Douglas-Hamilton

And so the Selkirk and the Hamiltons prospered. Alasdair Douglas-Hamilton thought he had it in the pot. He was listed in Debreit's and Burke's as the heir apparent. And a letter from Sir Malcolm's father, the previous Lord Lyon, seemed to confirm his succession would be trouble free.

There were two contenders: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the Scottish Office minister, and his cousin, Alasdair Douglas-Hamilton, a lawyer. But in November 1995, Lord James's uncle, the 10th earl, died without male heirs and in order to avoid a by-election in his marginal Edinburgh West constituency, Lord James renounced his claims.

In 1646 Charles I granted the earldom to his cousin, 12-year-old William Douglas, the younger brother of the premier Scottish peer, the Duke of Hamilton. There was a proviso that the two titles be kept separate. But William went on to marry Anne, Duchess of

But it was not to be. And besides losing the legacy and the right to sit in the House of Lords he had expenses granted against him. Asked what effect the case had had on the family, he replied: "It doesn't help matters." Of his relationship with Lord James, he said: "I seldom see him so that is academic." Lord James was not present.

Before the Court of the Lord Lyon, the arbiter of matters titular in Scotland, however, he pressed the claim on behalf of his son, John Andrew. In finding for Lord James and making John the heir apparent, Sir Malcolm said the minister could not use the arms or the title in his lifetime. The legal problem centred on a little Latin written over 300 years ago.

First you change for lunch. And then you lunch for change. It's worth it, you know, even if you don't get much change out of £30. Bel Littlejohn

dti Department of Trade and Industry. Imagine what he could have achieved with the right financial backing.

Poor John. He always had to make do with empty squeezy bottles and sticky-back plastic. If you've got a good idea, we can help you make it properly. Every year, the SMART competition awards 180 small businesses (employing up to 50 people) as much as £45,000 each. So 180 potentially profitable British inventions become reality. Have you got an innovative idea you'd like to see up and running? Would you like serious financial backing to research your technology properly? Then call us on 0990 440 440. Recent winning ideas range from a specialist underwater airtight bag, to an automatic, multi-channel DNA extraction system. The winning companies may also be awarded an extra 50% of costs to develop their ideas further. Closing date for entries is 15th April 1996. Eat your heart out John Noakes.



For an entry form, phone 0990 440 440.

REMEMBER CLOSING DATE FOR COMPLETED ENTRIES IS 15TH APRIL 1996.

Eviction stop drug

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Mother must quit home where partner sold heroin

# Evictions move to stop drug dealing

James Meikle, Community Affairs Editor

**C**OUNCIL chiefs will step up moves to stop drug dealing on housing estates after winning an eviction order against a mother whose partner was convicted of supplying heroin from her home.

The woman, two of whose children, aged six and 14, live with her in Cramlington, near Blyth, Northumberland, has been given a month to leave.

Eviction proceedings are being pursued against other tenants in an area where 13 people have died from drug abuse in three years.

Last year, the woman's partner was jailed by Newcastle crown court for four years. She lost her appeal against eviction at North Shields county court this week.

Deirdre Campbell, a member of Blyth Valley council, said: "As far as we know we are the first council in the country to take this step. This court ruling is a victory for us and will send out a warning shot to other people misusing their properties."

"The problems related to drugs in this town are horrendous. People get woken up at all hours of the night and day by abusers looking for suppliers on their estates and they bring crime with them."

Dave Stephens, leader of the council when the changes to tenancy agreements were made, said: "I hope the message gets out to all drug pushers they are risking losing their homes."

He added: "It took time to get the scheme off the ground because we had to inform tenants what we were doing. Anyone who breaks the

rules is at risk of losing their home. We don't care if these are women with children because all they are doing is peddling death... They are the ones who break the rules so they cannot be classed as homeless because they have deliberately chosen to lose their homes."

Home Office junior minister Tom Sackville has praised the council for specifying that drug dealing would be treated as a breach of the tenancy agreement.

Other authorities have made similar moves although the more general threat of eviction for allowing homes to be used "for illegal purposes" has existed for years.

Councils have also stepped up action against racists, sometimes by using clauses prohibiting tenants or others from sharing or visiting their home from threatening neighbours.

# Class training backed

Donald MacLeod, Education Correspondent

**T**HE Government's scheme to train teachers in the classroom instead of colleges or universities today receives a boost from a survey of experienced teachers — to the embarrassment of the union which commissioned it.

Like other unions, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers has criticised the move to school-based training as an extra burden on staff.

But Warwick university researchers found teachers involved in the programme were extremely positive de-

spite the increased workload. They welcomed the fresh ideas and energy student teachers brought to the classroom, felt their own professional development had been enhanced and expressed increased job satisfaction.

The School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) scheme, now in its second year, places graduate trainees in a secondary school or group of schools for a year under the supervision of existing staff, rather than being taught at a college or university and going into schools for teaching practice.

The scheme was criticised by the Office for Standards in Education in its first year. But a

teacher said: "It kept me on my toes, got me out of the rut I was in." Pupils liked the extra attention and the enthusiasm of the students.

The teachers found guiding student teachers was time-consuming. Peter Smith, the union's general secretary, said the Government could not continue to "milk teachers' goodwill at the expense of adequate funding".

Anthea Millett, chief executive of the Teacher Training Agency, hoped more schools would become involved. "It is an extremely demanding task but it not only provides quality training but motivates teachers and gives pupils more opportunities."

# Police say killer held woman under water

**A** WOMAN murdered while she was walking her two dogs was probably dragged into a river and held under water by her killer until she drowned, forensic tests showed yesterday.

As police stepped up their search for witnesses, they disclosed new details of the attack on Karen Skipper, a 34-year-old divorcee.

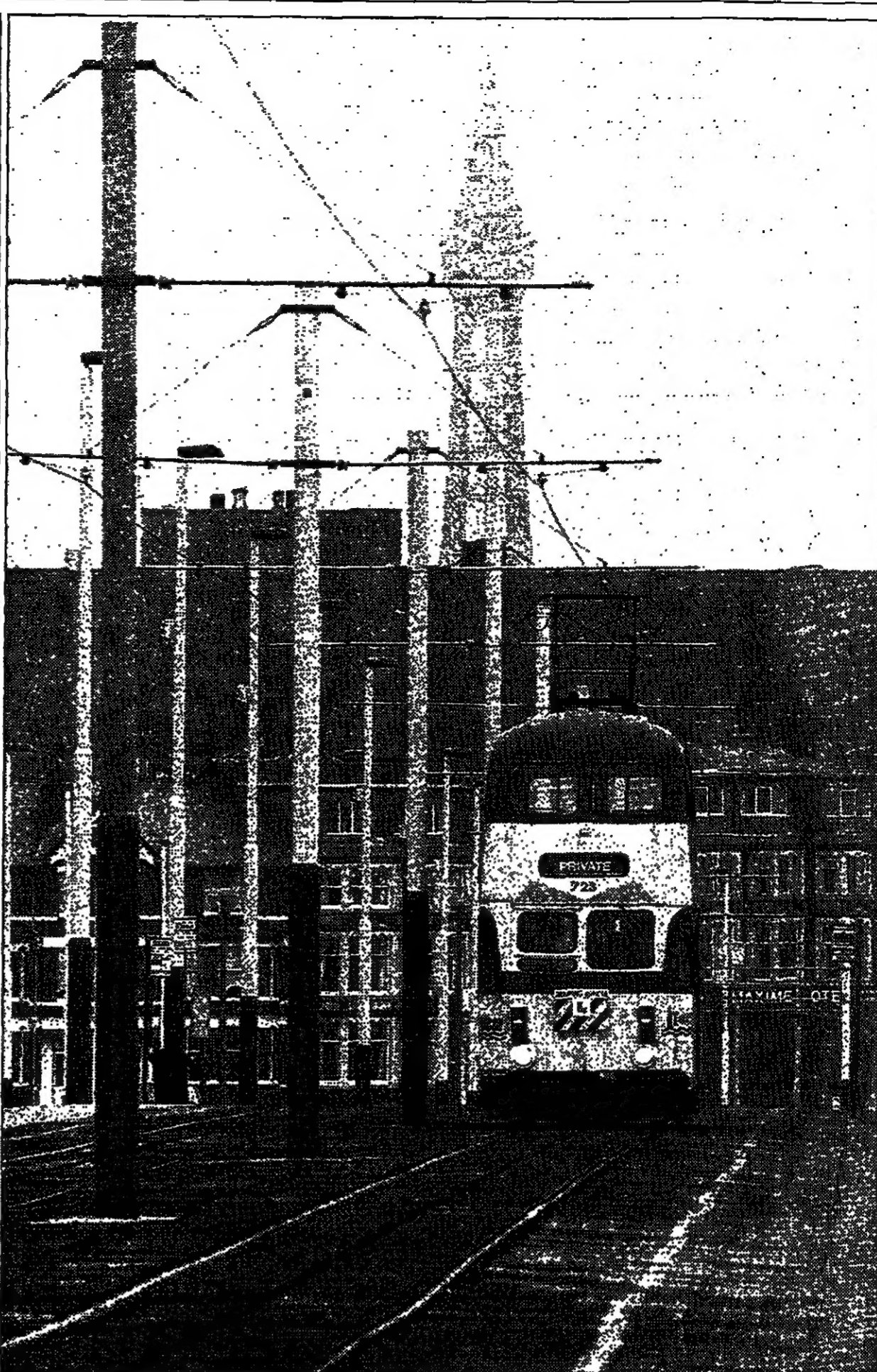
Detective Superintendent Terry Errington, leading the investigation, said scratches

on Mrs Skipper's legs indicated she was first dragged through brambles before being forced into the River Ely at Carduf. Her hands were bound behind her back and she would have been helpless to do anything about it. A horrific picture is emerging of how she met her death.

The investigation team of 30 officers issued a description of a teenage angler in a red baseball cap who may

have witnessed something suspicious as he fished close by at around 3am last Sunday. Two men and a woman seen chatting just before midnight near where Mrs Skipper lived, are also being sought in case they have vital information.

Officers with posters and questionnaires are to start a three-day exercise today to jog the memories of residents using Birdies Lane Fields where the murder took place.



A tram on Britain's most famous seaside route, along the coast from Blackpool to Fleetwood, which could be truncated by a funding row between councils. Blackpool is demanding £40,000 a year from neighbouring Wyre council for maintenance work to avoid the line terminating at Thornton. PHOTOGRAPH DENIS THORPE

# Cocaine craving 'trigger' targeted

Tim Radford, Science Editor

**S**CIENTISTS at Yale University believe they may have found the brain chemicals that control cocaine addiction — offering hope of blocking the craving or tricking addicts into feeling gratification without the drug.

The approach might also apply to the opiates — but so far the brain chemicals involved have only been tested on laboratory rats.

The news, revealed today in the US journal Science, comes only a few months after scientists at La Jolla, California, revealed they had made a form of cocaine without any kick to it, but which might help immunise addicts. The catch, once again, is that it has only been tested on rats.

But David Self and three colleagues at Yale school of medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, claim they have proved that "cocaine seeking behaviour", or addiction, is operated by two distinct "dopamine receptor agonists" in the brain.

However, dopamine is involved in numerous brain functions, so sorting out what it is that makes addicts relapse and seek cocaine was not simple. They found, though, that one agonist triggered relapse and another inhibited it.

The finding suggested it might be possible to devise some chemical to block craving and help addicts get off the drug.

But the Yale researchers believe there is still a long way to go, as dopamine and other companion substances are important in the brain's daily business. Others agree.

"They have global effects throughout the brain and dopamine is involved in muscular contractions, Parkinson's disease and so on," Dick Daffers, of the University of Glasgow said yesterday. "So the problem is getting things specific enough to knock out what you want to knock out and leave other systems intact."

He added: "It may very well be an 'antagonist' that keeps people off cocaine. But it may stop them enjoying anything — even something as simple as rock music."

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Dressed not to kill... A member of Russia's Presidential Regiment helps a comrade with his new \$600 uniform, based on an old imperial design

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES HILL

# Army elite keep KGB blue in imperial makeover

### James Meek in Moscow finds the peacocks of the presidential guard have nowhere to strut since Lenin's tomb duty was axed

RESPLENDENT in finery of teal green, royal blue, gold and brass, the young graduates of Moscow's top military academy had the polished ease of a man whose martial calling was a world away from the mud and blood of Chechnya or Tajikistan.

"All of us serve exclusively in the Kremlin," said Senior Lieutenant Vladimir Kaminsky, aged 23. "I'm not an officer of the Russian army, I'm an officer of the Presidential Regiment. It's a different thing altogether."

Until recently, this elite unit goose-stepped before the world as

the symbol of Soviet constancy, the honour guard on Lenin's tomb in Red Square. Now it has been refitted with uniforms in the style of the pre-revolutionary imperial army and serves in Boris Yeltsin's personal retinue.

The creation of the guard is part of an effort by Mr Yeltsin's image-makers to strengthen the legitimacy of the new order by associating the president with symbols of Russia's imperial, Orthodox past.

The new uniforms, which cost about \$600 each, were designed by military book illustrator and monarchist, Oleg Parkhayev. Based on the

1907 dress of Russian imperial guardsmen, they are a sharp break with Soviet traditions, although Mr Parkhayev said he chose the royal blue of the breastcloth because it was "the traditional colour of the KGB", to which the unit once belonged.

"For me this is a symbol of the overcoming of the rupture of 1917, the breach which should never have happened," he said. "It's not retrograde, it's not about forgetting that this is the end of the 20th century and trying to return to the beginning. It's a reminder that Russia did not begin in 1917."

Assembling the costume

was as much a showbiz affair as a military matter. The first versions were made up by the Bolshoi Theatre's costume workshop, and the head-dresses by the proprietor of a St Petersburg wax museum.

Lt Kaminsky admitted that his unit was devastated when the guard of honour was withdrawn from Lenin's tomb and the wooden mock-up they used to practise their goose-step vanished from within the Kremlin walls.

"The soldiers were very upset of course. All of us were. It was a very honourable duty."

The new uniform was a boost to morale, but no new ceremony has been invented yet to give them a public role. A remainder of the KGB's honour guards, such as the fancifully costumed Czech

sentries on duty at Prague Castle, they are not for tourists — unless you count the visiting dignitaries and heads of state in whose honour they turn out.

Lt Kaminsky said he was a career soldier who had been picked for the Kremlin because of his exceptional abilities.

The rank and file of the regiment, however, are conscripts. To get such a plum posting a recruit must be at least 5ft 10ins tall, have no facial defects and be "of Slavic type" — Tatars, Chechens, Bashkirs and so on need not apply.

"Can you imagine what it would be like if an English Guards regiment had Africans in it?" chortled Mr Parkhayev.

The search for a Yeltsin-era

# Cyprus riot as bishops try priest

Chris Drake in Nicosia

MORE than 70 people were injured yesterday as thousands of stone-throwing demonstrators fought pitched battles with Cypriot riot police outside the Archbishop's Palace in Nicosia, where the island's bishops were trying a priest suspended on immorality charges.

Police fired tear gas and made baton charges to stop the crowd of about 3,000 supporters of the priest, Archbishop Chrysostomos, when he appeared briefly at a window. The crowd, which demanded to be allowed to give evidence, hurled stones, wooden posts and parts of the barbed wire barricades at the police. Some officers threw stones back.

The demonstrators shouted "bigs, murderers" at the police, but saved their real anger for the Greek Orthodox Church leader, Archbishop Chrysostomos, when he appeared briefly at a window. "You are an anti-Christ, an adulterer, the son of a whore," they screamed.

Inside the palace, the bishops convened a second meeting of the Holy Synod at the end of the one-hour meeting, which was ordered to answer the charges in writing within five days. He did not give details of the charges, but has denied any impropriety.

mous tips that there were plans to harm him.

Archimandrite Meraclis, aged 39, has been elected as a bishop by a big majority of people in the north-western Morphou area, but the archbishop refused to enthronise him, citing "moral obstacles".

The decision has turned him into a hero. He is widely regarded as a "man of the people", and his simple lifestyle contrasts sharply with that of other Cypriot church figures who have become deeply involved in big business and multi-million pound tourism projects.

The archbishop is seen as autocratic, out of touch with his flock, and more concerned with exercising his considerable power to influence politicians and businessmen than dealing with the religious needs of Cypriots.

He wants the accused priest defrocked and has accused him of being a homosexual, a serious slur in such a conservative country. Homosexuality is no longer a crime in Cyprus.

Asked why he thought the priest had such strong support, he said it was because there were so many homosexuals in Cyprus, a statement that shocked the public.

He added: "It is my duty, till death if necessary, to take any measures necessary to protect the honour of the church."

The priest, who was smuggled out of the palace through a back-door at the end of the one-hour meeting, was ordered to answer the charges in writing within five days. He did not give details of the charges, but has denied any impropriety.

His supporters are expected to return in force when he goes back to the palace with his response.

## News in brief

### Seven killed in Bahrain attack

SEVEN people believed to be Asians were killed early yesterday when masked men threw petrol bombs at a restaurant in the Gulf island state of Bahrain, the official Gulf News Agency reported.

Witnesses said five masked men poured petrol at the entrance to the restaurant in Sitra district to prevent those inside from escaping, according to an interior ministry official. — Reuters.

**Troops rush in**  
Army reinforcements have rushed to Irian Jaya after violent demonstrations at a United States mine killed three people and left at least 15 injured, Indonesian officials said yesterday.

**Mafia charges**  
Almost the entire leadership of the Detroit mafia has been indicted by a federal grand jury on 25 different charges, the United States attorney general, Janet Reno, announced yesterday. — AP.

**Burundi deaths**  
Two priests and a nun were killed when 200 people attacked a seminary in northern Burundi, state-run radio said yesterday. — Reuters.

**Unmarked graves**  
As many as 3,200 illegal immigrants died along the Texas-Mexico border between 1984 and 1994, most by drowning in the swift waters of the Rio Grande, according to a study released yesterday. Most were never identified. — Reuters.

**Nuclear fallout**  
French wine exporters yesterday blamed French nuclear testing in the south Pacific for preventing 1995 from being a record year. They said boycotts — especially in Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Canada — knocked 750 million francs (\$97.5 million) off expected sales. — Reuters.

## Fury as Britain blocks scrutiny of Europol

Stephen Bates in Strasbourg

BRITAIN was accused yesterday of obstructing the European war against drugs and organised crime by its continued blocking of the inauguration of Europol, the cross-border police intelligence gathering unit.

Other European Parliament member states promised to redouble their efforts to get round the Government's lone opposition to the use of the European Court of Justice to adjudicate in disputes about Europol's operation.

Britain's obstruction of ECJ involvement has delayed the unit's operations for more than a year.

One Christian Democrat MEP, Viviane Reding of Luxembourg, told MEPs: "How much longer will we accept Britain's opt-out or put up with its negative attitude? One single member state is denying European citizens their rights."

The Government is prepared to take its hostility to the court to the extent of frustrating Europol, though it agrees the unit could be vital in fighting organised crime.

Both the Government and Labour contend that justice and home affairs are issues for member states to resolve independently. They deny that ECJ involvement would make Interpol more accountable or transparent.

Britain was one of the first EU states to ratify the convention setting up Europol, but recent ECJ decisions against Britain on fishing rights and limits to working hours have hardened the Government's attitude. The court has pointed out that Britain has a better record than almost any other member state in appearances before the court — fewer than 30 in 20 years, compared with 70 for Luxembourg and 300 for Italy.

## Mixed review for EU royalties plan

Julie Wolf in Brussels

THE European Commission came to the aid of artists throughout the European Union — from the famous to the struggling — yesterday with proposals to ensure that they receive royalties when their works are resold.

But auction houses in London warned that the plan would drive business to New York, where there are no royalties for the resale of works of art. The British government is expected to oppose the proposal, which is based on French practice.

The commission said the proposed legislation, which needs the approval of ministers, was aimed at ensuring artists get the same treatment in all EU countries.

Britain, Ireland, Austria and the Netherlands have no provision for artists or their heirs to receive royalties when works are resold through an agent or at auction. In other EU states the royalty systems vary widely and are not always applied.

In this way, a British artist such as David Hockney receives resale royalties when one of his paintings is sold in Paris, while the estate of Matisse earns nothing

when one of his works is auctioned in London, the commission said.

"This proposal will make a major contribution to promoting fine art within the European Union while strengthening the legitimacy of the new order by associating the president with symbols of Russia's imperial, Orthodox past."

Mario Monti, the EU's internal market commissioner, said:

His comments reflect concern in France and other EU countries that London's art market benefits unfairly because resale royalties are not paid in Britain.

But Anthony Browne of Christie's in London said the proposal would undermine Europe's art market. "It's not going to benefit Paris — it will benefit New York," he said. "Here again we see that the EU is more interested in internal harmonisation than whether a European market competes outside the EU."

Although Christie's itself would not suffer, because it has a strong business in New York, it would become difficult to attract large sales to Europe.

The commission proposes that artists should receive between 2 and 4 per cent of the price of works resold for more than 1,000 euros (\$900). The royalty should be payable for 70 years after the artist's death.

## European snub for US drive to arm Bosnian federation army

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

AN AMERICAN-led drive to start arming the Bosnian federation army has blown a new hole in the Clinton administration's policy of implementing the peace plan for the former Yugoslav republic.

With only days to go before United Nations resolutions allow weapons to flow legally into Bosnia, most European states are effectively stalling a donors' conference in Turkey today to try to raise \$800 million for the "train-and-equip" programme — a controversial part of November's US-brokered Dayton accords which ended the Bosnia war.

The money is intended to bolster the federation's Muslim and Croat forces. The United States has promised \$100 million worth of military equipment.

But European governments — uneasy at the prospect of a new Balkan arms race — are either staying away from the meeting or sending low-level representatives.

The German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, said: "It is not right to undermine arms control by rearmament."

Some US officers are said to share Europe's concern that arming the Muslims and Croats while the Nato-led

peace implementation force is still in Bosnia could place it for troops in danger.

The Clinton administration argues, however, that building up Bosnian Muslim and Croat forces to match those of the Serbs is vital to stability in the region, particularly after Nato leaves. Critics say the policy is a sop to Congress.

More than 20 countries will attend the one-day meeting in Ankara, to be co-chaired by the US deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott.

The US is worried because Islamic revolutionaries from Iran are allegedly giving their own form of training in Bosnia.

In contrast to the Europeans, pro-Western Muslim countries appear to be fully behind the US initiative. Among those promising to attend, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Brunei are expected to give money and equipment or training.

Italy, Germany and the Netherlands were the only west European countries to accept the invitation yesterday. But Britain later announced it would send a Foreign Office official.

A study by the US Institute of Defence Analysis, commissioned by the Pentagon, estimated that \$800 million worth



Strobe Talbott: Main man at donors' conference

of equipment was needed to meet any offensive in the region's difficult terrain. It also recommended an active-duty force of 55,000.

UN Security Council resolutions allow light arms to be supplied to Bosnia from March 19 — that is, 90 days after the Dayton accords.

The US wants to begin training and equipping the Bosnians within two to four weeks. The US study said

communications equipment, rifles, lorries and engineering material would be needed first.

Heavy weapons, allowed after 180 days, should include artillery, armoured personnel carriers and 45 tanks for a rapid-reaction brigade, it said. Warplanes were ruled out as too threatening and too expensive.

"We believe that a stable military balance is required to guarantee that war does not return after I-For departs from Bosnia," James Pardew, the US special representative for military stabilisation in the Balkans, told an Ankara news conference. "This stable balance is also essential to establish conditions for peaceful reconstruction to take place inside Bosnia."

The programme would offset the Bosnian Serbs' advantages in heavy weapons, logistics, training and military equipment.

While European countries argue that the scheme will undermine disarmament efforts, Mr Pardew insisted that it went hand in hand with arms control negotiations.

"If arms are not going to be removed from Bosnia," he said.

"There will still be a capacity to resume the fighting. But an effective military balance will support all of the people in Bosnia."



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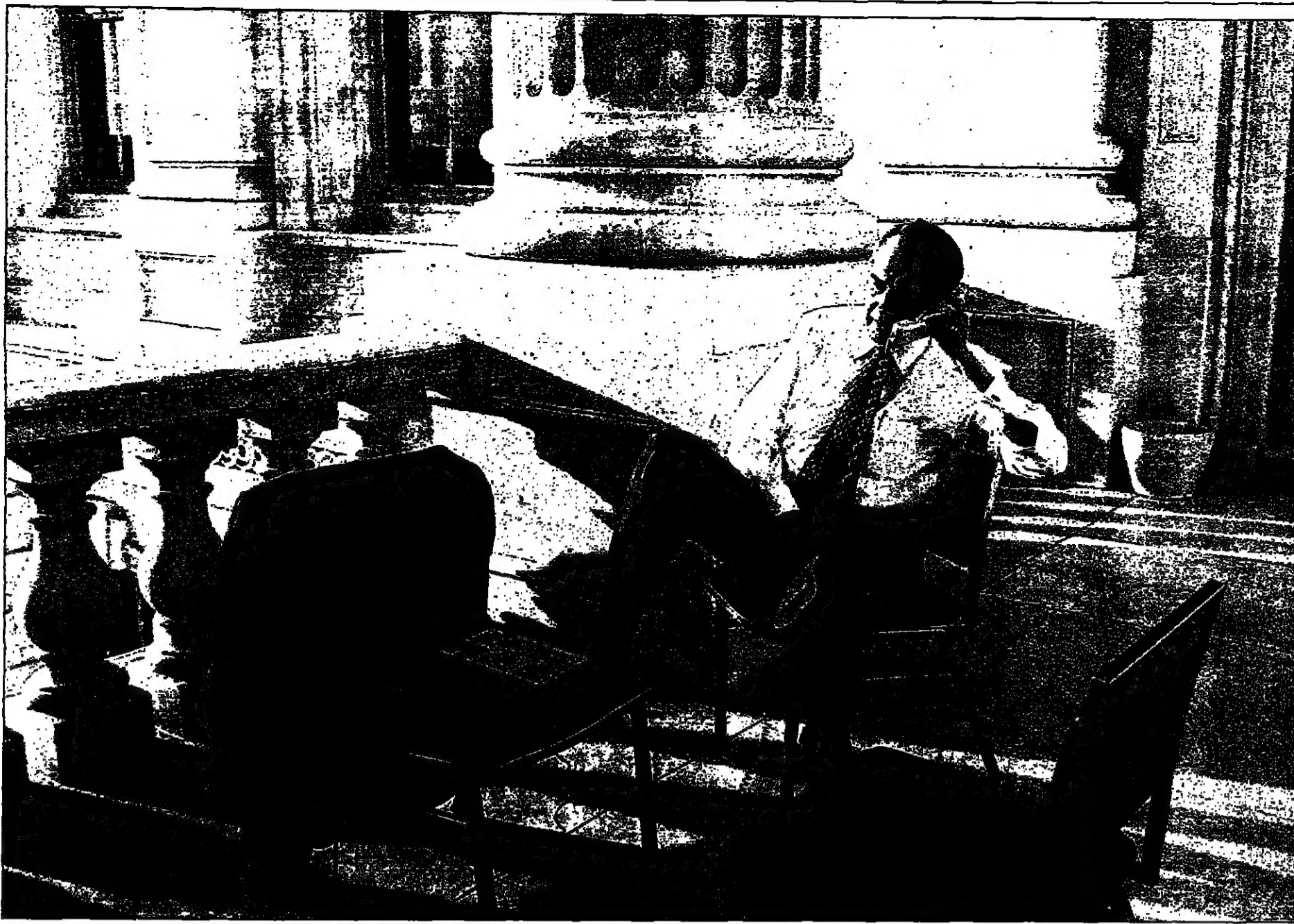
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Pragmatist... The Republican presidential aspirant Senator Robert Dole at work on the balcony outside his Capitol Hill office

PHOTOGRAPH RUTH FREEMAN

# Right sour at Dole courtship of Powell

Martin Walker  
in Washington

RETIRED general Colin Powell was being dragged back into the American presidential fray yesterday, despite his repeated refusal to run, as Republicans responded to opinion polls suggesting that putting him forward as vice-president was their only chance of topping Bill Clinton in November.

Conservatives and the religious right began scrambling to shoot down Senator Robert Dole's new attempt to recruit Gen Powell — who is relatively liberal and pro-abortion — as his vice-presidential nominee. Just as they mobilised last autumn to stop Gen Powell running for the presidency, they warned that he would split the party and guarantee President Clinton's re-election.

"Since Bob Dole is viewed as coming from the moderate-to-pragmatic wing of the party, the most helpful pick for him would be a solid, pro-life conservative," Ralph Reed, director of the Christian Coalition, said. "In private, the Coalition is calling on Mr Dole to repay its crucial backing for him in the southern states. It has said any candidate who approves abortion is 'unacceptable'."

The rightwing Pat Buchanan warned that Gen Powell would provoke a battle royal at the Republican convention, and old Ronald Reagan loyalists warned that opting for the general would be a leap into the unknown.

"Why should conservatives support a vice-presidential nominee, Mr Powell, who first joined the Republican party only three months ago, who is strongly pro-abortion, who believes in affirmative action, who declares himself a Rockefeller Republican?" Mr Buchanan said. "If Bob Dole sets a course to go back to Rockefeller Republicanism, he is going to have a battle at the convention."

The Democrats shook their heads in gleeful disbelief as the Republicans continued to squabble, despite Mr Dole's progress towards the nomination. "It's deathwish time whenever the Republicans go to war over abortion," James Carville, President Clinton's strategist, said. "They know it, but they can't help themselves."

Gen Powell's support of abortion rights for women and affirmative action for minorities makes him unacceptable to cultural conservatives. But opinion polls and senior Republicans such as former president George Bush all agree with Mr Dole's fear that he may not be able to defeat Mr Clinton without the hugely popular and respected general on his ticket.

The vice-presidential mating dance is taking a curiously ritualised form, in which Mr Dole does not quite make an open appeal and Gen Powell does not respond in person. "He has been a soldier all his life, and he has responded whenever his country needed him, and I believe if anyone went to General Powell and laid out a case that duty and the country called, he would suit up again," Mr Dole said after his sweeping victory in this week's Super-Tuesday primaries. "I may be totally wrong."

# Wargames bring democracy salvo from Taiwan

Andrew Higgins  
in the Pescadores

## China 'will not attack'

THE message was clear from his white golfing shoes. Visiting the front line of a confrontation that has left the world holding its breath, President Lee Teng-hui — with the defiant nonchalance of a weekend golfer — spent a day in the sun yesterday, taunting Chinese battleships and warplanes firing live ammunition a few dozen miles away.

BEIJING has told Washington it does not intend to attack Taiwan, the United States defence department said yesterday, writes David Fairhall. China's military options are limited. Western intelligence sources indicate that China has enough amphibious equipment immediately available to put only a single division of 10,000-15,000 men ashore. This rules out a large-scale invasion, unless many more ships and aircraft are assembled — which would easily be detected by US and Taiwanese reconnaissance.

"No one here is scared. In this place everybody has the spirit of struggle... They are the ones who are scared, scared to death," declared Mr Lee, aged 73, on his first visit to Taiwanese islands near the middle of the Taiwan Strait since China began test lobbing ballistic missiles overhead and practising bombing runs in the sea to the south. Only 40 miles away the People's Liberation Army held its third day of live-fire wargames. The Taiwanese defence ministry reported 20 groups of Chinese warplanes and 40 ships hurling missiles and bombs in a mock combat zone that has disrupted commercial air and sea traffic through one of the world's busiest arteries.

Mr Lee's studied calm, now the main theme of his campaign in Taiwan's first democratic presidential election on March 23, contrasted with the grim-faced vigilance of the bodyguards with Armatite rifles. Taiwan's military also showed its teeth. Fighters roared overhead as Mr Lee arrived for a day of electioneering, and soldiers stepped up armed patrols of sandbagged military camps around Mako, capital of the Pescadores. "We have achieved great successes, especially in the economy. Even the mainland is using Taiwan as an example," Mr Lee, dressed in a windbreaker and turtleneck shirt, told a meeting of besuited businessmen. "But there is one thing they do not know yet how to learn. That is democracy. This is why China is so afraid of these elections. That is why they use these exercises to intimidate us. The man the Chinese Communists are most afraid of is me."

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\$45,000-54,999	Annually	5.50	3.84
\$55,000-64,999	Annually	5.25	3.52
\$65,000-74,999	Annually	5.00	3.20
\$75,000-84,999	Annually	4.75	2.88
\$85,000-94,999	Annually	4.50	2.56
\$95,000-104,999	Annually	4.25	2.24
\$105,000-114,999	Annually	4.00	1.92
\$115,000-124,999	Annually	3.75	1.60
\$125,000-134,999	Annually	3.50	1.28
\$135,000-144,999	Annually	3.25	1.00
\$145,000-154,999	Annually	3.00	0.72
\$155,000-164,999	Annually	2.75	0.44
\$165,000-174,999	Annually	2.50	0.16
\$175,000-184,999	Annually	2.25	0.00
\$185,000-194,999	Annually	2.00	0.00
\$195,000-204,999	Annually	1.75	0.00
\$205,000-214,999	Annually	1.50	0.00
\$215,000-224,999	Annually	1.25	0.00
\$225,000-234,999	Annually	1.00	0.00
\$235,000-244,999	Annually	0.75	0.00
\$245,000-254,999	Annually	0.50	0.00
\$255,000-264,999	Annually	0.25	0.00
\$265,000-274,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$275,000-284,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$285,000-294,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$295,000-304,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$305,000-314,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
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\$495,000-504,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$505,000-514,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$515,000-524,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$525,000-534,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$535,000-544,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$545,000-554,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$555,000-564,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$565,000-574,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$575,000-584,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$585,000-594,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$595,000-604,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$605,000-614,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$615,000-624,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$625,000-634,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$635,000-644,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$645,000-654,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$655,000-664,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$665,000-674,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$675,000-684,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$685,000-694,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$695,000-704,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$705,000-714,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$715,000-724,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$725,000-734,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$735,000-744,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$745,000-754,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$755,000-764,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$765,000-774,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$775,000-784,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$785,000-794,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$795,000-804,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$805,000-814,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$815,000-824,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$825,000-834,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$835,000-844,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$845,000-854,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$855,000-864,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$865,000-874,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$875,000-884,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$885,000-894,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$895,000-904,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$905,000-914,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$915,000-924,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$925,000-934,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$935,000-944,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$945,000-954,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$955,000-964,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$965,000-974,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$975,000-984,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$985,000-994,999	Annually	0.00	0.00
\$995,000-1,004,999	Annually	0.00	0.00

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## News in brief

### Jewish-born cardinal joins Immortals

FIFTY years after being hunted by French police because of his Jewish origins, the archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, was yesterday admitted to the Académie Française, the Establishment's inner circle, writes Paul Webster in Paris. The cardinal, aged 69, is a favourite to succeed the ailing Pope Jean-Paul, a promotion that could make him one of the few Jewish-born leaders

of the Catholic Church. Yesterday's ceremony, in which drummers heralded his joining the 39 other academic "immortals", coincided with revelations about his conversion to Catholicism in 1942. The son of a Polish immigrant and grandson of a rabbi, the future cardinal was converted while in hiding in Orleans, just before his mother was deported and gassed in Auschwitz. His

father, who tried to force him to renounce his baptism, was not reconciled until his son became head of the French Catholic Church in 1981, according to the cardinal's biographer, Robert Serrou.

### Afghan rivals join forces

AFGHANISTAN'S embattled president, Burhanuddin Rabbani, has won the backing of one of his main rivals, Western diplomats said yesterday, predicting that the switch in loyalties would intensify the country's 18-year civil war, writes Gerald Burke in Islamabad. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, long seen as the mujahedin faction leader most bitterly opposed to Mr Rabbani, has pledged to support his forces fighting the Islamic Taliban militia on several fronts south of Kabul, the diplomats said.

### Army 'killers' identified

SURVIVORS of a massacre of Tamils, including women and children, by rampaging government troops in eastern Sri Lanka have identified eight soldiers who carried out the killings, police said yesterday. They were remanded pending further inquiries into the February 12 deaths of 24 villagers in the village of Kumarampuram in Trincomalee district, a police officer in the area said.

### Army 'killers' identified

Twenty-six villagers were wounded in the attack. Tamil politicians and some of the wounded accused government troops of going on a rampage after separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas killed two soldiers earlier that day. The rebels have stepped up attacks in the east after the loss of their northern Jaffna town stronghold to government forces last December. Nineteen weapons, including four light machine-guns believed to have been used in the massacre, were sent for official analysis, the police officer said. He added that 97 soldiers took part in the identification parade. — Reuter.

### There are very few people behind the camera, which is the only place in this business that really matters, with both the aptitude for war reporting and the willingness to do it.

Martin Bell on Brian Hulls

### Obituary page 10

**"I'm tickled pink"**

# 7 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING: BEST FILM

# 4 BAFTA AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING: BEST FILM

# WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE BEST FILM

# WINNER 2 LONDON FILM CRITICS CIRCLE AWARDS INCLUDING: FILM OF THE YEAR

# BABE

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## Guns kill, not just people

### Serious gaps in firearms control need plugging

THE Prime Minister travels to Dunblane today. What can he offer the devastated Scottish community? At a dignified and impressive parliamentary question time yesterday, the Prime Minister rightly said he would be looking to see what help could be given to the injured and bereaved. Much counselling help is already to hand although history suggests that as the horror of the massacre recedes for the nation, the funds for the necessary long-term counselling and support services will fade too. There is, however, one front on which he could move, even before the public inquiry into Wednesday's mass killings announced yesterday reports. That is on gun control. Undoubtedly he will be pressed by the Dunblane community on this issue. Let him remember that one of the most therapeutic releases a devastated community can be given is the knowledge that moves will be made to prevent a repeat of their tragedy. Mr Major should signal his support for plugging the serious gaps in firearms control, which remain even after the tighter legislation that followed the 1987 Hungerford massacre.

British gun laws are among the tightest in the world, but that does not mean they can't be improved. Even more important than our laws are our anti-gun culture. Unlike the Americans, the British — with the exception of the traditional shooting community — disliked guns. Criminologists have shown that even armed robbers in the past were wary of them, frequently carrying unloaded weapons or guns loaded with blanks. The shotgun, a robber's favourite weapon in earlier decades, could not be more inaccurate. It was carried to control, not to kill. That culture has weakened over the last decade but could be reinforced by both legislative and regulatory initiatives.

The British gun lobby, which now

parrots the empty American slogan of "people not guns kill people", needs a robust reply. The reason why the American gun homicide rate is 150 times as high as the British is due to the open availability of guns in the US compared to the UK. The main reason why we have such a low proportion of homicides caused by guns — only 10 per cent of the total — is our tight gun controls. Tighter controls would reduce them even further. Of course some criminals would still get round the regulations and obtain firearms. But contrast the current controls which the police apply to their own disciplined members who apply to become firearms officers with the procedure for applications from the public for firearms certificates. Police officers are subjected to the most rigorous screening and psychological tests; members of the public are given much more perfunctory scrutiny. Only one per cent of applicants are refused. Currently, there are almost one million people licenced to hold a gun.

There are various loopholes to be closed. Individuals who join gun clubs do not need a personal firearms certificate yet membership gives them access to guns and ammunition. All club members should need a personal certificate. More important still, a much more rigorous vetting procedure is needed to identify unsuitable gun holders. John Stalker, the former Greater Manchester deputy chief constable, expressed concern yesterday at the readiness of crown courts to overrule chief constables' decisions to withhold a firearms certificate. That appeal procedure needs looking at too. But above all, the firearms consultative committee needs to go back to fundamentals and review the "right-to-own" policy. Why not insist on all handguns being held by gunclubs? No one should be allowed to take them home. That just might have stopped the Dunblane killer.

## An empty summit of peacemakers

### Too much talk about war, not enough about peace

THE photo was the message at Sharm el-Sheikh this week where one Israeli prime minister and 14 Arab leaders gathered at the beckoning of one US president. Bill Clinton's own officials did not gloss over the symbolic nature of the proceedings: such a large gathering was, they said, little more than "a big photo opportunity." Nor did Israel deny that Mr Clinton's call was more a summons than an invitation: the chance to take part in an occasion billed as "the summit of the peacemakers" was not something, said the Israeli spokesman, to be thrown into the wastepaper basket.

And the message beneath the photo? Electorally blessed are the peacemakers might be an appropriate caption. The mere fact of the meeting having taken place is calculated to improve the chances at least of Shimon Peres (and possibly of Mr Clinton). However empty the proceedings, they do go some way to convey the impression of an Arab world, or parts of it, conferring a measure of approval on Mr Peres and the peace process. With the latest polls showing that even Israeli youth is turning towards the Likud opposition, he certainly needs all the help he can get. Mr Peres's own contribution to the summit was geared to a domestic audience. He lectured the Palestinians on their "obligations" to crack down on their "murderous command centres" in their midst, and he identified Iran as the "spearhead" of terrorism in terms which most experts would firmly dis-

pute. Significantly the final statement avoided either issue. Instead it referred to the "current and pressing needs of the Palestinians" — an indirect reproof to Israel for the severity of its policy of blockading the West Bank and Gaza. The political reasons which have led Mr Peres to impose this new closure (modified only marginally on Wednesday) are evident. But none of the participants, including Mr Clinton, can honestly believe that this type of collective punishment does anything but sow the seeds for more bitterness and violence.

Yesterday in Jerusalem Mr Clinton committed \$100 million of funds for anti-terror technology designed to confer a more practical result on the summit. There is talk of overcoming traditional inter-agency suspicions to form a counter-terrorism working accord between Israel and the US, with more limited links to Jordan and the Palestinian Authority as a further objective. Some practical aid will no doubt be useful. Yasser Arafat himself has asked for such everyday (these days) necessities as bomb detectors and bomb-sniffing dogs. But it is pure illusion to suppose that an "anti-terror Interpol", if it could be achieved, would do more than trim the margins of the problem. The reasons why young men and women volunteer to blow themselves up will not be addressed by pieces of hi-tech equipment. It is a pity that the summit did not talk less about "waging war" on terrorism, and more about how to rekindle the mood for peace.

## Beyond the political boundaries

### Why the Sri Lankans have hit the cricket establishment for six

WHEN the West Indies won the first cricket World Cup in 1975, Sri Lanka were simply there to make up the numbers. Yet in Lahore on Sunday Sri Lanka will play Australia for the 1996 world title. For a country which was not even admitted to the Test cricket arena until 1982, Sri Lanka's progress in not much more than a decade is the stuff of legends. Fourteen years ago, England travelled unwillingly to Colombo, believing that such a match was beneath their strutting dignity. Today, England would travel just as unwillingly, mainly because the chances are that they would be soundly beaten by the better team.

Sri Lanka's emergence is no one day cricket wonder. They have been steadily accumulating victories over most of the long-established cricket nations in tests and limited overs games alike. And they have powered their way past supposedly superior op-

position — including England and India — to reach this World Cup final. Their victims still find it hard to accept, as English sulks and the hapless riots in Calcutta on Wednesday showed, but Sri Lanka are now one of the two or three top sides in the world. It is a bit as though Greece had brushed aside New Zealand and England to emerge as serious contenders for rugby's crown.

All of which raises the tantalising question — why? Nations — especially tyrannically ruled ones — have often tried to use sporting prowess as a means of promoting their political or cultural aspirations. But these things are never tidy, else how could Brazil rule the football world so often? Sri Lanka's cricketing success seems equally hard to equate with its troubled and violent domestic politics. Perhaps the answer is simpler and less portentous — that they just have a very good cricket team indeed.



## Letters to the Editor

### Dunblane: the crying need to explain

WHEN blame is finally attributed, or evaded, over the issue of a firearms certificate to the evident social misfit who committed the Dunblane school massacre, will Parliament conveniently shelve consideration of the more basic matter of guns in the community and the nature of people attracted to owning them (Massacre of the infants, March 14)?

A gun is essentially a weapon for killing or injuring another creature. Its appeal over many other lethal weapons is its ability to achieve this at a distance, conferring on its user greater personal safety. I have the gravest misgivings over the personality of someone attracted to the possession of such a weapon and am not wholly persuaded by the arguments of the target-shooters. Technology affords us many safe and satisfying means of demonstrating our prowess at hand/eye/brain co-ordination without resort to such weapons.

If the authorities sincerely wish to avoid future Hungerford and Dunblane tragedies, they will need to take much stronger line against the gun-owning, manufacturing and retailing lobby than their American counterparts have had the courage to do, or face a further escalation in gun-related crime.

Any society will inevitably have its share of disturbed members, some of which will be tipped out of control by

events. If we continue to allow them easy access to this lethal weaponry, the grieving parents of Dunblane will not be the last to pay the price for our timidity.

Terry Bann,  
90 Faldoun Way,  
London NW11 6JD.

THERE are no circumstances in which personal ownership of guns cannot be effectively replaced by public or organisational ownership. Gun clubs could be approved owners, always retaining the weapons on their property; game shoots and sports shooting could be similarly controlled by the owners of such facilities and events; and the use of arms by farmers to put down pests and vermin could be catered for by placing arms in local police stations to be loaned on production of the necessary licence.

T D Wilson,  
9 Broomfield Road,  
Broomhill,  
Sheffield S10 2SE.

PHILOSOPHERS and theologians who speak of good and evil must explain the difference in evil-doing. If God created both good and evil and light and dark, then he does not appear to have distributed them fairly between females and males. We must look rather to social conditions such as images of violence. Violence in children's comic strips, violence as an effective and good response to problems in com-

puter games and in so much of our literature and myth, film and TV, teach what it is to be a "proper" man.

Annette Lawson,  
Holly Lodge Gardens,  
London N6.

APPARENTLY Thomas Hamilton led a reasonably competent, law-abiding existence, aside from allegedly sexually abusing little boys over many years. He seemed to feel strongly entitled to fulfil whatever sexual urges he had, just because he had them.

Paedophiles often vigorously justify their sexual use of children but prosecuting them is still immensely difficult, and measures to improve the giving of evidence by children are still hardly implemented, nor is their evidence taken seriously enough. If it were, it is just possible that the more paedophiles would get the message that they are not entitled to abuse children.

That wouldn't stop most but at least it might block the development in some of resentful them of being even mildly thwarted, which eventually crystallised so murderously in Thomas Hamilton.

Una Freely,  
Domestic Violence Drop-In,  
London N8.

HAD to deal with the sudden death of a seven-year-old boy through natural causes in the school playground last year. This inci-

dent is every parent's, teacher's and carer's worst possible nightmare.

The children of Dunblane Primary School will need time to express their grief and they will do so in many ways: withdrawal, denial, uncontrollable outbursts. They will re-enact the incident through play.

Schools, parents and authorities up and down the country will now start to ask themselves how to make our schools and children in our care safe while maintaining the open, warm and friendly atmosphere essential for a healthy educational environment.

I know at our school we will focus on this issue over the coming months.

Sam Curling,  
Chair of Governors,  
Welford Park Schools,  
75 Kingsley Road,  
South Harrow,  
Middlesex HA2 8LE.

WE MUST get about installing Different Circuit Television and automatic security entry doors to all schools in Britain. With CCTV any member of staff could clearly see and speak to any caller before allowing them in. The cost could be met by the National Lottery.

Schools should also have an automatic panic alarm link to police stations which could

increase response time if an incident occurs.

Schools cannot become fortresses but they should have the same level of security as shopping centres, car parks and other public amenities already served by CCTV.

Wayne Daley,  
15 Bondens Way,  
Hartford Chase,  
Cramlington,  
Northumberland NE23 9GU.

YOUR leader mentions some parallels between Hungerford and Dunblane: "strong community ties" can have only increased the pressure on loners like Ryan and Haxton, when despite the bonding of most of the population, they found themselves excluded.

A successful community is one which is able to reach out to everyone living in it, however unattractive they may be.

Adam Thomson,  
Rue A Lyne 8,  
1210 Brussels.

DOUBT that many other cartoonists dared to tackle the Dunblane massacre. I am absolutely certain that none would have handled the subject with the sensitivity of Steve Bell.

The five pages of reports saddened me, but it was the cartoon that brought tears to my eyes.

Wal Callaby,  
46 Victoria Quay,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO1 1WN.

## Animal welfare

THE recent pigeon kidnapping (March 9) underlines what a maltreated species these amiable urbanites are. They are under threat from eaters or likely to infect us with disease.

Homing pigeons carrying messages saved thousands of lives in both world wars; the Coast Guard raises pigeons to report when they spot the bright orange colour of life vests — saving lives at sea — and they are still used to carry blood samples from hospitals to laboratories in emergencies. On top of these heroic achievements they are surely the most underpaid road sweepers of all time.

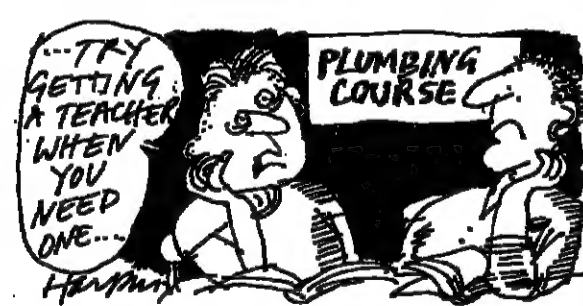
In a supposedly civilised society surely we can find better things to eat, though if you can't it is worth remembering that you are likely to catch salmonella and toxoplasmosis from undercooked, contaminated meat and your child is more likely to get a disease from his or her best friend than a pigeon.

Peter Newton,  
18 Jarvis House,  
Goldsmith Road,  
London SE15 5SY.

IF, as John Gardiner claims, (Letters March 12) have coursing helps preserve rare populations, might one ask why it is that traditional coursing areas, such as the land around Altcarr and Southport contain the fewest hares? Here in East Anglia, where such coursing as goes on is limited and illegal, we have the largest hare populations in the country. There is evidence that large numbers of hares were trapped here to supply "sport" for the Waterloo Cup; the accounts for the event showing this merely as expenditure for "hare acquisition."

Tony Green,  
63 Lewington Road,  
Ipswich,  
Suffolk IP3 0NH.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.



## No entrance for a tradesman

AS THE mother of four white, working-class boys I feel I can count myself as an expert (Under pressure, March 9). They are undervalued because they are working class, their skills and ambitions are derided as inferior to the aspirations of their middle-class counterparts.

To aspire to become an electrician or plumber is not quite good enough to warrant the same funding as a university humanities degree.

One of my sons started a bricklaying course funded by the local authority where the same bricks were used every day and the tutor rarely turned up. This would not be tolerated at university and is a common attitude to vocational qualifications that is

not found in the rest of Europe.

Our prisons are overflowing with white working class boys and the Government plans to build more. Perhaps we are waiting for a war before these boys are worth spending any money on.

The middle-class feminists in their justified clamour for equality forget that not all men were on top of the heap; many were little more than wage slaves.

Working class boys are full of energy and enthusiasm until they see that society has no place for them and their dreams.

Jacqueline Flanagan,  
97 Glebe Crescent,  
Witham,  
Essex CM8 2HZ.

Urban warfare

GEORGE Monbiot (Time to build peopletown, March 13) is right to urge a community-based approach to urban regeneration. So more power to his elbow in promoting communities and homes on vacant urban sites.

However, even with the present market for brown-field sites, John Gummer believes that only half of the estimated 4.4 million new households can be accommodated in existing urban areas — and this might well go down if there is a commercial imperative to develop these sites for other uses. So how do we accommodate all these extra households?

Tim Cordy,  
Director, Town and Country Planning Association,  
17 Carlton House Terrace,  
London SW1Y 5AS.

In a word

BRIAN Elze (Letters, March 14) is not correct to say the bomber "hoist with [his] own petard" is "attempting to scale the ramparts with the aid of a hoist"; but what a delightful idea (Letters, March 14). The quotation, from Hamlet, runs:

There's letters sealed... For 'tis the sport to have the engineer hoist with his own petard: 'tis the snail that will draw out a yard below their mines... And blow them at the moon.

Hamlet intends to rewrite the letter that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern will carry to England, such that they rather than he will be executed: he intends to hoist (blow into the air) the bearers with their own explosive package.

Chris Thomas,  
Fleet, Hants GU13 9QU.

## Hidden costs of custody

READERS of Andrew Rutherford's powerful article (Enemy behind bars, March 13) might also consider the other swears the US administration is waging on its own people in the name of "security and defence". They wage war on native American people by keeping and testing nuclear weapons in the Nevada Desert. They wage war on the poor and disadvantaged by starving them of resources (one in five US children lives below the poverty line) while still pouring money into the military and, in particular, nuclear weapons. The total cost of the Trident nuclear armed submarine system will be \$170.2 billion. The 18th sub will be launched this summer.

Rae Street,  
Calder Cottage,  
Rave Hill Road,  
Littleborough,  
Lancs OL15 9HG.

RUTHERFORD ignores the damage done to mainly wives, but also an increasing number of husbands and children, by the wholesale incarceration of criminal wrongdoers. Imprisoning the father and, perhaps, principal wage-earner, condemns families to a life of poverty, uncertainty and, frequently, guilt by association.

Children growing up with a parent behind bars stand a good chance of suffering emotional and financial deprivation, added to which is often an ambivalent attitude to anti-social behaviour and the police.

Michael Howard's macho response to the buying of the hanging and flogging brigade may yet prove to be a Pyrrhic victory.

Deirdre St Clair Martin,  
Manor Farm,  
West Compton,  
Dorchester, Dorset DT2 0EY.

## A Country Diary

GLoucestershire: The efficient and well organised shepherd knows to a day when each ewe in the flock is due to lamb. This enables a chart on the kitchen wall to act as a running aide memoire of who needs to be looked out for and when. It is achieved by harnessing the wax loaded raddle on the ram at tugging time last autumn and then counting 147 days from the time a wax mark appears on the rump of the ewe. There have been years when we have matched this recipe for organisational efficiency but this is not one of them. Young Jerry, the ram lamb charged with responsibility for impregnating the flock last autumn, was a bit on the small side and the leather harness which holds the block of wax on the chest would have bedded more adjustments than I could contemplate when it mated. So, although he no doubt got round the flock to satisfy the reproductive imperative we are in no way sure of when lambs will start to appear. However, we have completed

the necessary preliminaries. Lambing pens, sterilised with Jeyes fluid and ready for clean straw, have been prepared in the field shelter. And, a fortnight back, we got all the ewes in and gave them their injections. This is the essential protection against the clostridial diseases and, if you give it to the ewe in the spring before lambing, it protects her lambs until the autumn when they get a booster dose. We had this part well organised — I came home with a fresh 25-dose pack of Heptovac-P from the veterinary chit cabinet and a supply of disposable needles. Two mulls in the neck muscle was harder than it sounds since getting through thick winter fleeces to find flesh on a morning when every ewe was coated in frost was not the easiest of tasks. But it also gave the chance to examine the undercarriage of each ewe to ascertain how close to lambing she was. At that stage three or four weeks off looked the best bet. As I write, we are still waiting.

COLIN LUCKHURST



Diary  
Matthew Norman

In honour of Frank Bruno, I am compelled to begin today with a tediously hackneyed boxing metaphor. So, then, let's get ready to rumble. I am intrigued to learn of a small but instructive fight between Labour, past and present. In the red corner, representing Old Labour, was George Galloway, the affable MP for Glasgow Hillhead; in the blue corner, fighting out of New Labour HQ in Millbank, was Derek "Dolly" Draper, an obliging lad who works in Mandy Mandelson's office. In a Soho bar last week, Dolly seemed to have offered him £500 and some nice publicity for a cameo role in Annie's Bar, Channel 4's political soap opera. Reasoning that such appearances have done little for those (the Edwards-Curry) who have made them, he refused. "May I say, George," said Dolly, "how wise your decision is? I should tell you that, in my capacity as a consultant to Annie's Bar, I have asked Mandy Mandelson to appear." "But in my capacity as assistant to Mandy, I have had to counsel him strongly against it." Loyalties here, loyalties there... what a stretching thing it must be to serve as a soldier in New Labour.

YOU, The Jury have given your verdict — and by a crushing margin of five to one, you have found him guilty of having a beard in 1972. Yesterday's exit poll exaggerated the margin, the final tally being 256 against 46 (which equates to 85 per cent for the beards). As predicted, Peter has refused to accept the verdict of You, The Jury. "It just goes to show," he said, "how deluded an electorate can be." Meanwhile, a woman claiming to have been "intimate" with him at York rang to back his denial. However, her refusal to give her name has fuelled speculation that someone put her up to the job.

In the Whitewater trial in Little Rock, Arkansas, the spotlight has picked out juror Barbara Adams, whose mode of dressing for court threatens her status. Miss Adams, a 31-year-old factory worker, arrives to hear evidence each day in the red and black polyester uniform of a Star Trek bridge officer. She had intended to wear full Klingon regalia, but the court felt this might be unseemly. It seems Miss Adams has accepted the need for some decorum. "I always wear my uniform," she told reporters, "to formal proceedings." There is a chance, now that she has become a celebrity, that the defence will ask for Miss Adams, Commander of the Little Rock Federation Alliance, to be removed. This could be dangerous. Along with tricorder, scanner and communicator badge, a phaser gun never leaves her belt.

JUNIOR transport minister Shagger Norris spoke yesterday lunchtime to one of his favourite bodies. Among the many important fiscal points expertly covered in his speech to the Institute of Economic Affairs were the following: eliminating florist's bills by growing your own roses in a window box; purchasing chocolates and other confections wholesale in bulk; booking weekend country house hotel breaks at apex rates; and saving on restaurant bills by knowing how to suss out the best and Spencers meals so they look home made.

MEANWHILE, also in central London yesterday lunchtime, John Wells was giving an address at Wesley's Chapel. Last week's speaker was Tony Benn; next week it's Norman Lamont, and the one after it's... Good Lord, it's someone listed as plain and simple "Frankie Fraser". This is a curious error of styling. Other speakers are given their correct titles — John Paton is "Rt Hon", for instance, while the Archdeacon of York is "The Ven George Austin". Where the hell is Frankie Fraser's Mad? Paul Hulme, the Wesleyan minister, who has invited Mad Frankie back after his triumph there last year, has clearly taken a liberty. Let us pray that, for the reverend's sake, it is not construed as diabolical.



# Big Frank and the Knickerbocker glory

## Commentary Peter Preston

SOME time in the early hours of Sunday morning a falling left book from the smaller chap will land on, or in areas adjacent to, the jaw of the bigger chap. At this point the repetitions of history may be expected to operate. The bigger chap is bigger than ever, some two stones heavier than when the pair last met seven years ago. He is also 34 now, over the slope of youthful resilience. The extra weight, like the passage of time, will not assist his speed of movement. Nor is it gathered as protective padding around his chin. There will therefore, as usual, be a sudden stiffening to the legs. The head will go back, inviting further damage, whilst the arms are thrust pawing forward as though waving a protective blanket. Curtains.

Or, of course, we may see

something entirely different. Whatever the respective records of Bruno and Tyson, you can never quite tell with championship boxing: that is part of its dubious charm. The only (fascinating) certainty is that triumph or destruction will make not a whit of difference to the roseate esteem the British public habitually extends to Frank Bruno. His panto bookings, his supermarket openings, his Questions of Sport and Christmas special appearances are safe for all time.

How, in conceivable logic, can this be so? The surrounding world does not love a loser. It prepares, elsewhere, to curry the sad Yorkshire pudding that is Raymond Iltingworth's cricket manager-ship. It piles abuse on the bowed head of Michael Atherton. Nobody wants, after Venables, to manage the England football team (unless Ken Clarke becomes suddenly available). British tennis is a sour joke. British rugby is a fumbling, leaden vale of tears.

Why should Big Frank be different? Ray Seitz has the answer. Seitz, a State Department pro, was the last US Ambassador to the Court of King James. He's settled here to make money out of banking, and

maybe, to set up as a kind of Alistair Cooke in reverse. Importing Britain to the Americas — graceful little radio essays. He finds our (imperial) sporting past a terrible drag on present morale. The national games, one after another, are games we invented. A longer list than you think. Everyone knows about cricket, from the early mists of Kent in the fourteenth century to Hambledon and WG Grace. About rugby union, from the public school lad who picked up the ball and ran with it. About soccer, and the tennis of Victorian lawns, and the royal and ancient birth of golf (in Leith, not St Andrews, as a matter of fact).

But squash and table tennis and — God bless the Duke of Norfolk — greyhound racing are ours too; not to mention hockey, unless you're an Ancient Egyptianist. In modern terms, we invented them all and exported them all. This is an appalling burden.

The USA, as Seitz says, was infinitely smarter. You can (via John Arlott's Oxford Companion) trace basketball back to the Yucatan in the seventh century BC or play "catch-baskets" with Omar Khayyam. In any case, it's not from our basket. The makers

of American Football took rugby union in the 20 years around the turn of the century and changed it so utterly that William Webb Ellis haled from a different planet. Baseball, to be sure, was nicked from rounders in the early 19th-century, but the New York Knickerbockers made it an entirely separate field of dreams.

These variants, with minor exceptions, have not been exported. They have become effectively indigenous sports played mostly in America. In reality, the baseball "World Series" only covers cities from Seattle to Miami. The "world" stops at the Statue of Liberty. The greatest American football teams never experience the humiliation of international defeat, for there is nobody to defeat them. Such

## Sport is one of Britain's intractable problems, rather like an everlasting Maastricht IGC

notions, including the Seitz theory, are not intended to be extrapolated with mechanical precision. The occasional Davis Cup or Ryder Cup reverse can indeed produce occasional spasms of self-doubt. Too many good Canadian ice hockey players bring convulsions. Nevertheless, the who and why of what America plays constantly reinforces the American dream. The implicit assumption — even in Olympic trials — is that the

United States is the world, and can thus never be worsted. The Pentagon — see Grenada or Somalia — has taken to playing by precisely similar rules: only opponents who cannot win make the fixture list in the first place. One myth of invincibility reinforces another.

Here's where Big Frank has it made. Marquess of Queensbury quite apart, heavy-weight boxing — in cash and legend — is an American game. He, like Oasis or Blur, may be allowed to play there without fear of humiliation. Success is not winning but taking part. The last immortal, Henry Cooper, is fondly cherished for doing rather well before Cassius Clay knocked him out.

But the rest are our games. We have to play them constantly against whippy Sri Lankans or raw-boned New Zealanders. We struggle to beat the Dutch at cricket. We aren't worthy of decent seeding in the European football club. Fill or Argentina can give us the rugby shivers. Swedes leave our tennis starlets dead.

It is a chronicle of unique gloom. Around the globe, in poll after poll, people are going off politics and professing themselves far more interested in leisure and sport. They are, in sum, switching from the contemplation of intractable problems to the immersions of entertainment. But sport is one of Britain's intractable problems, rather like an everlasting Maastricht IGC: a feelgood patch condemned by history to leave us feeling lousy. What's to do? Tuck your chin in, use your weight, keep off the ropes. But above all, as the greatest of our post-war radical lunch groups, the Campden Hill Square Set, Field in Ms Lady Antonia Fraser's home, not much more than a mile or so from Acton and only four miles in a cab from Brixton, it consisted of people like John Mortimer and Melvyn Bragg — people very, very peckish for change. Those were the days. We would arrive at 12.30 for 1.00 in smart-but-casual wear. So as to cut down on the cost of clothes, our treasurer, David Hara, had arranged 10 per cent discount at all Nicole Fahri outlets for all members on production of a current membership card. Our costs would be taken by Ms Lady Antonia Fraser's co-workers, Dolores and Felipe, who would then retire to the kitchen to continue their discussions on workers' rights. At 1.00 sharp, the debate would start. John Mortimer would propose Leonni's Quo Vadis. Too far too soon, David would counter, we wouldn't arrive at our destination until it was too late, and the chips were already down. The debate would then be thrown open to the floor. Antonia would suggest Le Caprice, arguing that it represented an entirely open society at a price worth paying. She would then be shouted down by Harold, who favoured the strong, more directly peasant-like flavours issuing from the River Cafe. Fashions would now be at their height. Harold would walk out, saying that choosing Quo Vadis would be just like bombing Hanoi all over again, only more expensive. Contrary to what its critics would have us believe, the Campden Hill Square Set achieved its aim of becoming the forum for civilised debate

# Out to lunch with Harold and Antonia



Bel Littlejohn

ANOTHER day, another high-powered set lunch for like-minded radicals in a discreet but far from uninteresting new restaurant. There comes a time in everyone's life when you've simply got to sit down and be counted. Change is gonna come, sang the late, great Marvin Gaye. The format is simple. First you change for lunch. And then you lunch for change. It's worth it, you know, even if you don't get much change out of £30 a head, excluding service. Intended result? A complete overhaul of our outdated hierarchical structures, and the prospect of a truly modern, democratic republic by the year 2000.

It's an open secret that I was a founder-member of what is now acknowledged as one of the greatest of our post-war radical lunch groups, the Campden Hill Square Set. Field in Ms Lady Antonia Fraser's home, not much more than a mile or so from Acton and only four miles in a cab from Brixton, it consisted of people like John Mortimer and Melvyn Bragg — people very, very peckish for change. Those were the days. We would arrive at 12.30 for 1.00 in smart-but-casual wear. So as to cut down on the cost of clothes, our treasurer, David Hara, had arranged 10 per cent discount at all Nicole Fahri outlets for all members on production of a current membership card. Our costs would be taken by Ms Lady Antonia Fraser's co-workers, Dolores and Felipe, who would then retire to the kitchen to continue their discussions on workers' rights. At 1.00 sharp, the debate would start. John Mortimer would propose Leonni's Quo Vadis. Too far too soon, David would counter, we wouldn't arrive at our destination until it was too late, and the chips were already down. The debate would then be thrown open to the floor. Antonia would suggest Le Caprice, arguing that it represented an entirely open society at a price worth paying. She would then be shouted down by Harold, who favoured the strong, more directly peasant-like flavours issuing from the River Cafe. Fashions would now be at their height. Harold would walk out, saying that choosing Quo Vadis would be just like bombing Hanoi all over again, only more expensive. Contrary to what its critics would have us believe, the Campden Hill Square Set achieved its aim of becoming the forum for civilised debate

until it broke up in disarray amidst accusation and counter-accusation just six months later. West-liners in the upstairs room of The Ivy, over canapés of twiglets shaped as parliamentary port-cullises, Charter 88 was formed. The number — 88 — honoured the two original signatories, Clare Rayner and Miriam Margolis, and the title paid tribute to the last great Democratic president of the US, Jimmy Carter.

And so to the Common Sense Club, a gang of republicans who believe passionately that the people should wrest democratic power from the elite. We meet regularly in Charlotte Street's exclusive L'Étoile, always in a private room so that ordinary diners can't overhear our democratic discussions or worse, be tempted to join in.

Basically, we are all fiercely anti-monarchist, none more so than that great republican polemicist Tony Holden, author of Charles: Prince of Men (1972), Charles And Diana: A Marriage Made In Heaven (1981), Charles And Diana: A Crowning Love (1989), God Bless You, Ma'am: A Celebration of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother (1991), Prince Edward: TV's Prince of Genius (1994) and most recently, The Monarchy: A Serious Reappraisal (1995), in which he argues that an absurdly rosy, cosy view of the Royal Family has been foisted on the people by unscrupulous journalists, interested more in profit than in truth.

Tony chaired our last meeting of the Common Sense Club. The debate started as we were taking our seats. "These chairs are a bit uncomfortable, aren't they? Can I put it to the members of the Common Sense Club to vote for a change of chairs?" demanded Professor Stephen Haseler. On a point of information, Michael Mansfield then kindly pointed out that the chairs were still stacked on each other top-bottom: the Professor had been attempting to sit on the up-turned legs. But before long the Common Sense Club got into its stride. "A grown-up, educated people simply doesn't need the deference to so-called superiors writing fancy titles!" I announced, bravely.

Over pudding, Tony Benn had an announcement to make: "You may remember at our last meeting we sanctioned a letter to Her Majesty explaining our brave stand against the Monarchy. I'm now delighted to say we have received a hand-written reply from Buckingham Palace thanking us on behalf of the Queen, no less, for our kind letter, confirming she read it with the very greatest of interest and wishing us all the very best of luck with our project." He then passed the letter around for us all to look at. A buzz of radical pride swept through the company. Would have us believe, the Campden Hill Square Set achieved its aim of becoming the forum for civilised debate



# Loner in our midst

Families moved to Dunblane to escape the cities but horror pursued them. Paul Barker asks what society can do in the reasonable pursuit of safety

LIKE THE killing of young James Bulger in Liverpool, the tragic deaths in Dunblane make it impossible to avoid asking questions about what sort of society we are creating. To ask them is not to try to diminish the terrible particularity, the appalling uniqueness, of the crime committed against those small children and their teacher in Primary One. Nor is it to seek to soften Thomas Hamilton's guilt, nor to play down the heart-rending grief of families he callously shattered. Sociology must not erase individuality. But crimes, even the worst and most seemingly inexplicable, don't happen in a vacuum. These killings are at the other end of the social and geographical spectrum from the Bulger murder. That was a crime which spoke (among other things) of the threat-hare realities of life in the

Lakeside, Thurrock, is that they are a poor parody of a traditional city street. But Jane Jacobs, an early heroine of the urban conservation movement, wrote that "the bedrock attribute of a successful city district is that a person must feel personally secure among all these strangers". Enclosed and video-scrutinised, the shopping mall makes people, and especially women, feel safe. No need to carry bags slung across your chest. In a glass-sided lift, no fear of assault.

Thomas Hamilton, however, was not a stranger. Though he was widely known locally as an oddball, nothing would have made Dunblane secure from him. The police, I hope, will not this time get their routine allocation of blame for not having put him inside, or not refusing him a firearms certificate, after accusations of indecency with boys. As David Rose points out in his excellent new book, In The Name Of The Law, the standards of evidence required to get a conviction have grown ever higher. Revealingly, when the local council refused Hamilton permission to run a boys' club in a hall of theirs, he turned to the local-government Ombudsman and overturned

them. Nor, under an older system, was any courtroom evidence even necessary. When I was a teenager my mother came home one night, worried that a man had been following her menacingly along a dark, quiet road. I rang the police. They found him hiding behind a wall, took him down to an even quieter part of the village and beat him up. "He won't do that again," they said. No one, especially not us, complained.

A loner, once, was locked into a close network of social control. For better or, sometimes, for worse. But this is not the way we choose to live now. You read all too much about the rise in the number of lone mothers. (The statistics are exaggerated, for different reasons, by both left and right.) You read little about the rise in the number of men living on their own. Last year, more than a quarter of households in Great Britain consisted of one person living alone. This is double the proportion a generation ago, in 1961. (If we have a housing shortage, it is due to this continuing breakdown.) At present, most of those who live alone are women old enough to draw their pension. But the latest edition of Social

Trends shows that the recent growth has been among people younger than that, and particularly men. It predicts that this shift will continue. By the year 2011 such lone men are expected to form the largest group of one-person households. It is a form of social atomisation, a nuclear family, nuclear fission. In the jigsaw of contemporary society, it is a change at least as significant as the spread of urban wastelands like those where James Bulger's young killers grew up. Because it is less concentrated, it has been less noticed.

ONE mothers at least have their children to tie them to a wider world. But lone men, especially if they are unemployed, have nothing. The back streets of the shabby ends of every British town are evidence of the elaborate communities of fantasy that men create as substitutes: martial arts centres, porno shops, tattoo parlours. Plus the erotica, often spiced up with violence, on the top shelf of your neighbourhood newsagent's or video store. Plus the extraordinary esse of buying drink almost everywhere, to help you sit at home across your chest. For some, guns and knives become part of the dream: the cinema of fantastic action that unrolls inside their head, with themselves as hero. Billy Liar gone bad.

IT cancelled its Wednesday-night screening of an ill-timed title, Licensed To Kill. The video release of Natural Born Killers, intended for next week, has been postponed. Notoriously, sociologists and psychologists have failed to come up with proofs that tie the watching of violence to the perpetration of violence. Yet in every other segment of life we assume that similar influences exist. (Are feminists wasting their breath in pressing for less passive portrayals of women? Or political parties in pursuing equal TV time?) The mistake, probably, is to put the issue too narrowly. For the true impact of reading about, and watching, violence, you have to look at the entire social setting: the sea in which we all swim, like fish. The idea of violence becomes routine.

I write as a libertarian. People should be allowed to go to Hell their own way. But to plunge others into "a medieval vision of Hell" (in one Dunblane ambulance man's words) is something else again. It is time for liberals as well as conservatives to ask themselves some difficult questions. For example: has the video player, where isolated moments can be played and re-played indefinitely, changed the old aesthetic argument about seeing violence "in context"? Harpless rifle clubs have existed for years, but what about those that feed the new gun culture of would-be Travoltas or Schwarzeneggers? Does anyone at all, except the army and, sometimes, the police have any good reason for having a gun?

I yield to no one in my dislike of Michael Howard's Home Secretaryship. But it is important to remember that, in addressing the wish most people have — to feel safe — he is speaking to real fears. In seeking alternative answers to his, you cannot ignore the changed context. Principles may remain the same. The society in which to try to apply them doesn't.

Paul Barker is a senior fellow of the Institute of Community Studies and former editor of New Society

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J A Cuddon

# By definition, a bookman

THE WRITER J A Cuddon, who has died in London aged 87, was probably best known for his *Dictionary of Literary Terms*, but he was also a man of multifarious talents and a compelling range of interests.

The Dictionary, first published in 1977, is indeed a considerable book. Scholarly, lucid and user-friendly, it is stamped with its author's personality: his laconic wit, his tersely elegant prose-style, his liking for stray items of anecdotal knowledge. The lists of examples suggest a man well-read not only in the English canon but in world literature and contemporary writing too. He was up to date in other ways as well. Asked to expand the book to meet the booming demand for literary theory, he buckled down with characteristic grit and learned the subject from scratch. The 1991 revised edition is a monument to that labour.

Still more impressive, though, is his work as a travel writer, now much neglected. Outstanding in this field is *The Owl's Watchdog: A Study of Istanbul* (1980). This was his first book and to my mind remains his best. His descrip-

tions of the city and its history are memorable, but the book's most pungent flavours are provided by chance encounters and deliberate digressions. These vary the travelogue with, in effect, miniature essays on a range of topics — from hares to cicadas, from the history of prostitution to the fall of empires. An early review of the book expressed its distinctive magic: "Istanbul," wrote Richard West, "remains one of the world's most fascinating cities... J A Cuddon is almost as fascinating an author. He seems to attract excitement. He witnesses a knife-fight on page 4, a suicide on page 63, and is struck by lightning when he ventures out into Thrace."

West was spot on. "Charles" Cuddon, as his friends called him, could not have been more fascinatingly erudite, genial, stochastically courageous (especially during his last illness), a passionate lover of words and one of nature's uncouth and unassuming. He was born in Plymouth in 1908, the son of a distinguished brigadier and a former nurse, from whom he picked up a passion for travel and the Eastern Mediterranean.

A serious Roman Catholic,



Cuddon... lover of words

he was educated at Douai before going on to read English at Brasenose, Oxford. During the whole of his working life, 1964-83, he taught at Emanuel School, South London, where I was briefly his pupil. He never pretended to be a dedicated teacher and yet, to many of us, he was a constant inspiration. He made you want nothing more than to live the life of a writer.

He was also a keen and accomplished sportsman: he had represented his university at cricket, rugby and hockey and he continued these activities at Emanuel, mainly as a coach to the senior teams. He also produced a handful of plays at the school, introducing a very conservative institution to Pinter, Ionesco and Genet when they were still new enough to seem a little shocking.

The theatre was his great disappointment. His association with the English Stage Company under George Devine led to the production of his play, *The English Alliance*, at the Royal Court in 1961. But despite more than a dozen subsequent attempts, he never met with dramatic success. He did, however, publish five novels between 1961 and 1967.

merits, they are not satisfactory novels. There is often uncertainty about point of view. Much the best of them, *Testament of Isaurion* (1962) — the confessions of an accomplished egotist who sees his life as a series of betrayals — succeeds through its consistency of focus.

Two other books deserve mention. *The Companion Guide To Yugoslavia* (1968), finally thrown out of print by the Bosnian war, is a model of its kind: informative about restaurants, bus routes and the dates of castles, it is also an absorbing read, ideally suited for the journey out or bedtime on the eve of an excursion.

Like *The Dictionary of Literary Terms*, it is full of wit, wisdom and out-of-the-way information. The same is true of the massive *Macmillan Dictionary of Sport and Games* (1980). The entries on some of the major sports — 12 double-column pages on cricket stick in the mind — are really essays of historical and cultural interest, though the humour always ensures a sense of proportion.

Yet despite the rich variety of Cuddon's achievement, his friends tend to agree that his

talents never quite found their natural outlet, except perhaps in his very first book. It was commonplace to hear him described as a remarkable man. He was, for instance, a wonderful conversationalist: he was his learning lightly and excelled as a raconteur. His manner of speaking — a gift to affectionate schoolboy mimicry — was revealing of his character and outlook. His sentences were spontaneously stylish, his choice of words unaffectedly felicitous, yet all that he said seemed edged with a certain gruffness, as if to remind himself that language had its limits. Whether teaching pupils or among his peers, he seemed wholly unaware of his own distinction — which was, perhaps, the secret of his charm.

After a more or less bohemian early manhood, he married in 1974. His relationship with his wife, Anna, was warm and close and one felt the strength of their mutual support. He leaves two daughters and one son.

**Clive Wilmer**  
John Anthony Bowden Cuddon, writer and teacher, born June 2, 1908; died March 12, 1996

Brian Hulls

# Quietly telling point of view

BRIAN Hulls, who has died of cancer aged 48, was a gentleman — a gentleman — a species I had thought to be extinct until I met him, which was well into his second or third career. He started with the BBC as a trainee film editor, but decided early on that he would rather be shooting his own images than trimming someone else's.

Such was the politics of television that he had to go freelance to do this, and a freelance than as now was most in demand in uncomfortable and dangerous places. Brian was helped by his fluency in languages, including Dutch and Arabic, and his extraordinary ability to blend into his surroundings. This was as important on the rim of the supposedly civilised world — from Teheran to Venice Beach, California — as the technical skills which he was also a master. He operated best alone, or in quiet company. Garrulous reporters or over-anxious producers would be put in their places by quite the most eloquent silence in the business. He gave more than they did, and could express it better.

In mid-career Brian switched from the exotic locations in which he specialised to the relative serenity of Plymouth and Yeovil, his hometown, and the regional TV company TSW. If it was a change that he made for family reasons, there were no better reasons for making it. It was probably the happiest time of his life, and he would surely have retired in the south-west but for a certain restlessness of spirit and a drift down-market of TSW's news agenda.

He decided to return to the international arena and the war zones if necessary. He decided to do so later — typically, while under artillery fire in Sarajevo in 1992 — as a decision forced on him by having to film an interview with a tortoise.

So it was that he came quite late to the craft in which he made his reputation. He was well on the wrong side of 40 when the wars of ex-Yugoslavia began, but he set about shooting the images of them as if the rest of his working life had been an inspired apprenticeship for this particular task. There are very few people behind the camera, which is the only place in this business that really matters, with both the aptitude for war reporting and the willingness to do it. We had but three or four of these — and one of them, Tihomir Tunukovic, was killed in the first months, blown away by Serbian cannon fire. Brian was luckier, at least for a while. He survived the shrapnel and the snipers, and made things happen professionally which without him would not have happened.

I do not believe that he felt no fear — the photographers who feel no fear, of whom there are a few, are a dangerous breed — but he certainly managed the fear that he felt more positively than any of

us. Courage can be as contagious as panic, and courage was what he communicated. It steaded us all.

The enemy of good reporting is not censorship but cynicism — the cynicism that can lurk in the heart of journalists and on which they even pride themselves. Brian would have none of it. He was personally and passionately committed to presenting these wars as unflinchingly as he found them. His career made up in impact for what it lacked in length. His best-remembered achievements, among many, were a Panorama in February 1993 which communicated the realities of the Bosnian war by the sheer force of its images, and a documentary of



Hulls... eloquent silence

equal firepower shot in the front lines of Mostar later that year. I took the credit for one of these and Jeremy Bowen for the other. But our words were ancillary. We were just among those present. They were films by Brian Hulls.

Brian's cancer was diagnosed last year. Three weeks ago, when I last saw him, he described himself as "typically a little of colour." He leaves his wife Alison and his two daughters. We shall mourn with them. We also loved this man.

**Martin Bell**  
Brian Hulls, television news cameraman, born August 15, 1947; died March 13, 1996

### Death Notices

**FAITHFULL**, Bernice Lucy Faithfull OBE D.Lit., M.A. died suddenly in St Thomas' Hospital, London on March 13th at the age of 80. She was a devoted wife and mother. Her funeral will be held in the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford on Tuesday 19th March. No flowers please. Donations in her memory may be sent to the Appeal Secretariat, The Guildford Community, Marshwood-Station, Ashford Kent TN25 1JL. Details of a memorial service to be held at St. Margaret's Westminster, will be announced later.

**STEVENS**, formerly WRIGHT. After a short illness, on Tuesday March 13th 1996, at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, MARGARET PATTERSON, beloved wife of BILL, much loved mother of LAURA and grandson of JOSEPH, POLLY, MARRIET and CHILL. Formerly head of Psychology at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Funeral at Westminster Crematorium Glasgow on Monday March 19th at 10.15am.

**HULLS**, Brian of Devonport, Devon. Brian died on Wednesday March 13th at the home aged from cardiac failure. He was a devoted husband and father of Caroline and Matthew. He was a member of St. Andrew's Church, Devonport. Funeral on Wednesday March 20th at 11.00am at St. Andrew's Church. Burial at St. Andrew's Church. Family and friends are invited to a reception at the home of Mrs. Susan Hulls, Devonport, Devon on Friday March 23rd at 7.30pm. Clive Wilmer, Clive Wilmer, Devonport.

Ross Hunter

# Gloss on top of glamour

THE CREDIT sequence of *Initiation of Life* (1968) shows a variety of precious stones — emeralds, diamonds — drifting down in slow motion forming a multi-coloured mound of jewels on the Cinema Scope screen. It has virtually nothing to do with the film that follows, but it set the image of movies produced by Ross Hunter, who has died aged 71.

"The way life looks in my pictures is the way I want life to be. I don't want to look a mirror to the life as it is. I just want to show the part which is attractive," Hunter explained. He was among the handful of producers during Hollywood's studio days — others were David O. Selznick, Arthur Freed and Val Lewton — who had a direct creative effect on the style of pictures they made. Audience expectations were raised as much by these producers as by certain directors. The epitomes "glossy," "escapist" and "glamorous" were usually attached to Hunter's productions. "Women want the type of glamour that can take them away from their daily chores," he claimed. It was at Universal, where he worked from 1935 to 1940, that he was able to realise his dream, mainly through the elegant talents of German-born director Douglas Sirk.

Hunter, who was homosexual, was always seen at press events in dramatic poses on his arm. He arrived at the 1971 Oscar ceremony, accompanied by former teenage star Sandra Dee, wearing a \$1,000 tuxedo. "Tomorrow, I'll put my suit in wardrobe and they can use it in my next picture," he said. All this was a long way from the days when Martin Fuss was a schoolteacher in Cleveland, Ohio, with ambitions to be an actor. With a sexier name, he managed to get a few small roles in B-films in the 1930s, but gave up when told by a director that he had three expressions, "blank, blunker and blankest." He returned to Hollywood in 1933 to start a career as a producer at Universal, and was mainly responsible for getting the studio out of the red.

This was achieved astutely by his allowing Sirk to come into his own as director of a number of rich and ripe Technicolor melodramas including *Imitation of Life* (1934), *All That Heaven Allows* (1935) and *Imitation of Life* (1936). For all their extravagance of plot, they were done with impeccable style, paying attention to lighting, sets and costumes. Hunter was a passionate performer, a man of great clarity of vision and wisdom beyond his years.

When he left the RAF, Robbie trained as a teacher and married his first wife, Elizabeth, with whom he had a son and three daughters. He returned to Jamaica in 1980 and spent a year as senior



Shangri-La meets Purgatory... Ross Hunter (left) on the set of Lost Horizon with director Charles Jarrett

friendship between wealthy Lana Turner (another Hunter film) and a black woman, grossed over \$10 million.

The following year, Hunter was responsible for the inspired pairing of Rock Hudson and Doris Day in *Pillow Talk*, a fairly innocent sex comedy, by today's standards, which unleashed a string of mildly risqué farces throughout the

1950s. Hunter himself expanded into thriller territory, putting Doris Day in *Midnight Lace* and Lana Turner in *Portrait in Black* (both 1960) through the mangle.

Shrewd as ever, he was responsible for starting the series of "disaster" movies of the seventies with his production of *Airport* (1970), the first and best of the fear-of-flying films

with all-star passenger lists. He earned \$45 million at the box office, and Hunter seemed to be able to do no wrong. Unfortunately, hubris was at hand in the shape of *Lost Horizon* (1973), a musical which turned *Shangri-La* into 150 minutes of Purgatory. Made for \$7 million, it was a gargantuan flop, and ended Hunter's career in pictures. He continued to produce

several mini-series for television, a medium which had become the receptacle for the kind of lush soap operas with which he will always be associated on the big screen.

**Ronald Bergan**  
Ross Hunter (Martin Fuss), film producer, born May 6, 1922; died March 10, 1996

Clifton Robinson

# Horizons of service

AMONG a contingent of 2,000 recruits who arrived in Britain from the West Indies to join the Royal Air Force in 1944, was a young Jamaican, Clifton Robinson, who was to become deputy chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality. He was one of the thousands of men and women volunteers who had come from the then colonies to fight in the defence of Britain during the second world war. Robbie, as

he was always known, who had died aged 69, trained to be a wireless operator and served in that capacity until 1948. He was at that time a young man of great clarity of vision and wisdom beyond his years.

When he left the RAF, Robbie trained as a teacher and married his first wife, Elizabeth, with whom he had a son and three daughters. He returned to Jamaica in 1980 and spent a year as senior

master at Kingston Senior School. A year later he was back in Britain, teaching at Mellor School, Leicester. He took a great interest in developing more effective methods of instructing less able pupils, and between 1961 and 1964 took charge of special education at Mellor School. In 1964 he became deputy head-teacher at Charnwood School. His first headship (1969) was at St Peter's School, and from 1970 to 1977 he served as head-

teacher at the Uplands School.

In 1973 Robbie became a Justice of the Peace and was awarded the OBE, in recognition of his service to the community. His ability to relate constructively to people from different racial groups distinguished him. In 1977 he was appointed deputy chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, a position he held until 1986. At the end of his term of office he was awarded the CBE.

That year, 1977, was momentous for Robbie. His CRE appointment entailed departure from Leicester, the city where he had lived and worked for over 20 years. He moved from education to to

the new and complex minefield of race relations and also married his second wife, Margaret, a constant source of support and encouragement.

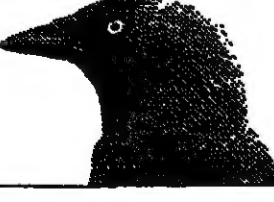
Robbie was moved by the ideal of public service and was proud of his Jamaican roots. He was a lifelong member of the Association of Jamaicans, served as president of Roots College and vice president of the International Friendship League. Yet he found time to give backing to such organisations as the Urban Trust, the Community Industry Trust, the Refugee Legal Centre and, for a time, the Notting Hill Carnival Committee.

It was one of Robbie's great strengths that, though he

Birthdays

David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP, 45; Alex Bernstein, chairman, Granada Group, 60; David Bryer, director, 52; Isobel Buchanan, soprano, 42; Colin Croft, cricketer, 43; Frank Dobson, MP, Labour's environment spokesman, 57; Sunetra Gupta, author, 31; Deirdre Hutton, chairman, Scottish Consumers Council, 47; Prof Joana Mitchell, political economist, 76; Michael Moore, chairman, NSPCC, 60; Robert Nye, novelist and poet, 57; Ben Okri, author, 37; Frances Partridge, diarist, 82; Gavin Stamp, architectural historian and writer, 48.

Jackdaw



### Rush, rush

AFTER A SPELL in a mediocre office job, I saw exactly what I wanted: Advertisement Manager. Interest in art and antiques. Fluent French essential. I got the job. For the next 10 years I travelled across Europe... Sometimes I went to New York, San Francisco and then to Hong Kong. Harry had taught me to sell and even selling in foreign languages seemed easy. I got by with O level German, attempted more than a few words of Italian and, when in doubt, spoke French or English. I became publisher and editor, arranged art tours for hundreds of an-

tiques dealers — I figured if I whisked them off to the Florence Antiques Fair and arranged for them to have dinners in palazzos, private views, parties and a reception with the mayor, they couldn't possibly refuse me advertising — the idea. And life was good. Oh, I was often tired. Sometimes I wondered if I wasn't overdoing the travel, but it was a habit that was hard even to think of giving up. Besides which, I loved seeing my case packed and ready to go, and I loved rushing down the stairs to jump into a waiting taxi that was heading for Heathrow.

I decided I wanted to live in New York before I died... It didn't seem like a bold move. Hell — I'd left work before and didn't seem to have suffered. Also someone had told me about the creative writing courses they run at Columbia University... Those 18 months in New York were among the best in my life. Some days I'd walk across the campus and think that I'd never been so exquisitely happy. When I wasn't writing, I played hard. I met writ-

ers, musicians and intellectuals. Went to parties, lectures, jazz clubs and Upper East Side dinners. I hadn't felt so alive in years...

Apart from a few pessimistic warnings and head-shakings of those close to me, each time I've dropped out most people seem to have expressed envy. In my 20s it was, "You're so lucky to be living in the South of France". During the New York writing stint it was, "I'd give anything to be doing that". And now it's, "You look so relaxed these days". Look — heaven knows where I'll land this time but so far it feels strangely good.

Marvella d'Argy Smith, ex-editor of *Cosmopolitan*, on the joys of downsizing and doing lunch, in *Elle*.

**Late bar**  
Dear Mr. Berman,  
Your maid, Kathy, has been instructed to stop delivering soap to your room and remove the extra soaps. I can be of further assistance, please call extension 1108 between 8am and 5pm.

**Thank you,**  
Elaine Carmen, Housekeeper

Dear Mr. Kensseder,  
My bath-size Dial is missing. Every bar of soap was taken from my room including my own bath-size Dial. I came in late last night and had to call the bellboy to bring me 4 Little Cashmere Bouquets.

Dear Mr. Berman,  
I have informed our housekeeper, Elaine Carmen, of your soap problem. I cannot understand why there was no soap in your room since our maids are instructed to leave 3 bars of soap each time they service a room. The situation will be rectified immediately. Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience.  
Martin L. Kensedder, Assistant Manager

Dear Mrs. Carmen,  
Who the hell left 64 little bars of Camay in my room? I came in last night and found 54 little bars of soap. I don't want 54 little bars of Camay. I want my one damn bar of bath-size Dial. Do you realize I have 64

bars of soap in here. All I want is my bath-size Dial. Please give me back my bath-size Dial.  
S. Berman  
From bad to worse for Mr. Berman in his soap war with a London hotel. Will he get his way with the Dial and oust the lumbering hotel bureaucracy? Find out in Monday's final instalment.

**Dog dinners**  
HERE IN THIS place, the minutes are measured by the skins that mount in piles hanging from nails... by the skins and the penises that lie in piles at the foot of posts like discarded hour hands... The practise of eating dog is well known and tolerated by those who are not partial to it but the idea of actually killing man's best friend would appear not to sit so well with many... Pokkhasup and his hard-working team are quite matter of fact and undefensive when asked about their feelings regarding their vocation though; for them, there is an honest way of life, seven days a week, 365 days a year

... The boss-man with 20 years of breathing in this foul air under his belt smiles, pronouncing, "no no Dracula" while he hoists another bewildered and terrified beast from the confines of its 72 hour Black-mongrel-Maria, swinging it by the neck across the vast between pick-up and pen to meet its maker at the end of the fatman's downswing after the first, second or sometimes third ill-directed blow...

"I have several contacts with dog-collectors who

travel far and wide, swapping a plastic bucket for every dog lingers offer them. After three days on the road they bring the live dogs in and wait to take away the meat hours later, well before dawn. We keep the skins to sell to Bangkok and Japan... They only take the biggest best skins to make drumskins and leather goods from. You want to eat a penis? He laughs and waves around the member he has just severed from a dog strung up by its hind legs...

Feet itching, visibly unhappy and distressed, our Thai driver wipes Tiger Balm under his nostrils continuously to counteract the stench... "People around these parts have been eating dogs for as long as I can remember. The Laotians say seal is the best 'water' meat and that dog is the best 'land' meat." Pokkhasup talks as his knife glides under the skins around a dog's hind legs. "In the past, families used to kill a dog to eat each week, people liked the meat but they had to be careful not to exhaust their supply, after

all there's not much meat on a big dog, let alone a pup, and a dog takes time to grow flesh, so farming them is still unpractical... The night mare is complete, and Pokkhasup sits down to rest and work his instruments methodically on a stone outside his tiny ramshackle dwelling abutting the slaughter zone. His wife sits beside him in the strange fragile quiet, slicing and scraping small pieces of meat from the bones before they are laid to cure under recycled salt... Her words drag you back. "We don't notice the smell any more." As Crufts gets under way, a reminder that dogs can face more than preening and posturing in Philip Blenkinsop's report from Thailand for the Australian magazine *Revelations*.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk. Fax 0177-713-4366; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

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**REVELATIONS**  
Doggy tales... Revelations



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

SFA completes list of merchant bank's executives to face discipline • Process 'not a witch-hunt'

Barings action 'imminent'

Alan Addison

ACTION is imminent against former executives of Barings, the merchant bank whose 5800 million collapse rocked the City a year ago...

Singapore-based 'rogue trader', Nick Leeson. Their report was completed in January, since when it has been scrutinised by SFA lawyers...

advisers, which has had the effect of delaying the start of any SFA action. But the Guardian has learned that a list of those to face disciplinary hearings has been completed...

would face the full severity of the SFA's disciplinary process. At its most stringent, this process can result in offenders being stripped of their SFA membership effectively for life...

At the time of the rescue of Barings by Holland's ING bank, all top managers at Barings linked in any way to the running of Mr Leeson's Singapore offshoot were placed 'in suspension'...

mer 1994, which warned that Mr Leeson might be able to over-ride controls. The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, last night conceded that the complex system of financial regulation might need to be updated...

Notebook

A single roof for the regulators



Edited by Alex Brummer

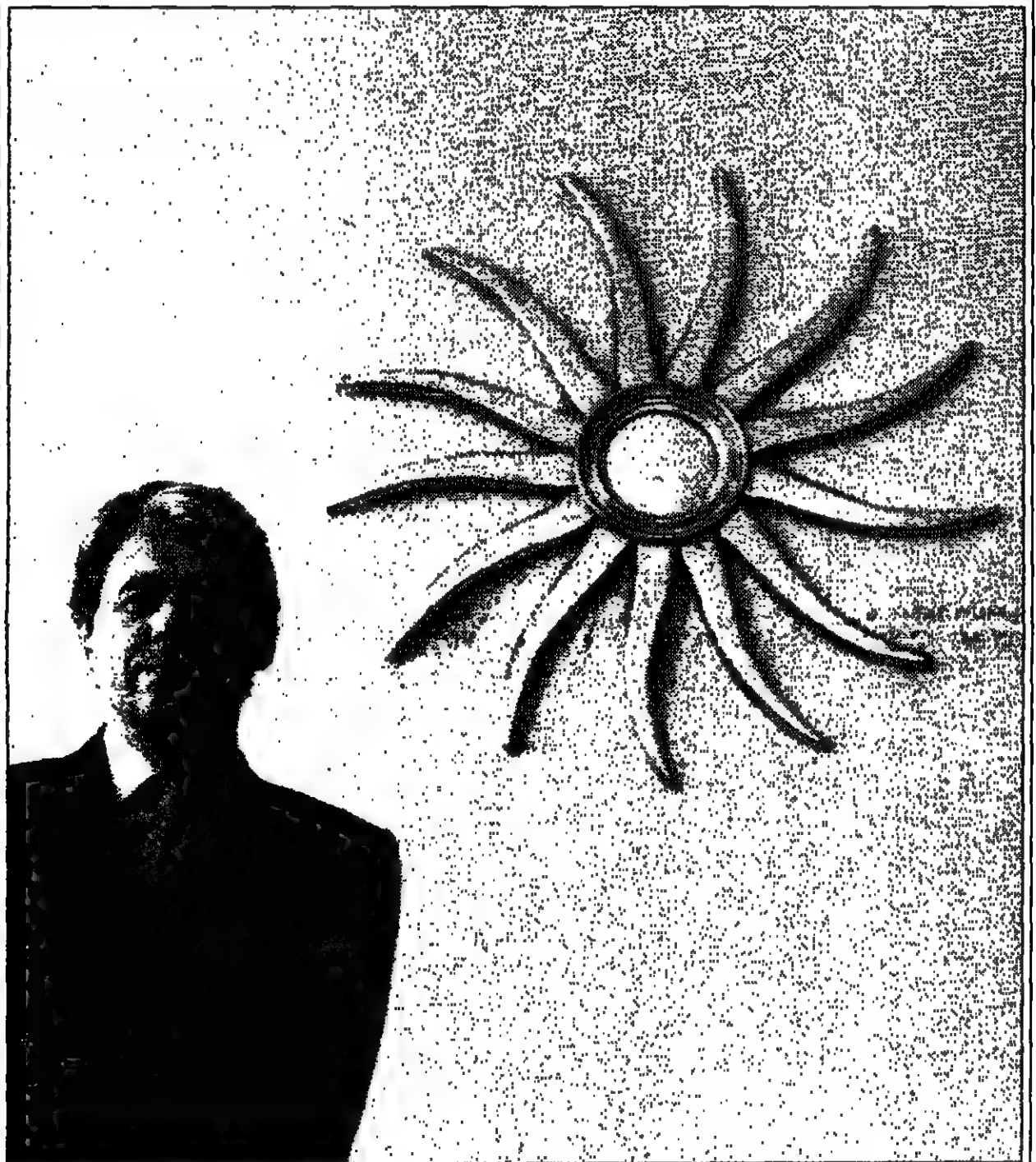
THE timing of last night's suggestions for a vastly increased role for the Securities and Futures Authority, put forward by its former chairman Christopher Sharples, could hardly have been better...

Mystery Swiss role played in Glaxo tax row

Roger Cowe

AN obscure Swiss company, secretly at the centre of Glaxo Wellcome's global commercial operations since the 1980s, is being investigated by the Inland Revenue in its lengthy dispute with the drugs group over internal pricing...

the Swiss issue could be more substantial than Singapore, because it is involved in virtually all sales and all countries where Glaxo operates. Adechsa was set up in 1964, when Glaxo was beginning to move from its base in infant milk production into pharmaceuticals...



Starry spells... BTR's Ian Strachan saw increased profits despite slow growth in many markets

Brittan gainsays EU line on pound

Julie Wolf in Brussels

SIR Leon Brittan yesterday broke ranks with the European Commission and backed the British government view that there is no need for a new exchange rate mechanism to link currencies that take part in monetary union with those that remain outside...

slower economic growth would have the ability of France and Germany to meet conditions in the Maastricht treaty. A commission spokesman said Sir Leon was speaking in a personal capacity. According to commission sources, Sir Leon had been asked to change the text of his speech...

BTR digs in for 'great escape'

Pauline Springgett

INDUSTRIAL conglomerate BTR yesterday unveiled a 5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for 1995 at £1.5 billion and pledged to pursue a strategy of focusing on its core businesses...

struction and automotive markets and he warned of continuing difficulties this year. 'The markets in which we operated in 1995 were, in our view, disappointingly dull', he said.

for sale. However, he conceded that it was not a core business. It produces plastic, a commodity, and we don't like to be subject to commodity cycles', he said.

So sorry, says UB, as Lineker tackle crunches crisp profits

Ian King

UNITED Biscuits yesterday sought to escape its accident-prone past after admitting to a dreadful 1995, in which the group was dumped from the FTSE-100 and ran up its first-ever loss.

like Ace, a chocolate orange biscuit, the Mini Jaffa, a 'fun size' version of that hardy perennial, the Jaffa Cake, and Crinklin' Mini Cheddars. Old favourites Hula Hoops — helped by TV advertisements featuring comedians Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse — continue to sell well, as do Skips, Frisps and the Pileups Fogg range.

— helped by TV advertisements featuring comedians Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse — continue to sell well, as do Skips, Frisps and the Pileups Fogg range. The outlook at all looks bleak for plain old KP Crisps, under an onslaught from Walkers Crisps, whose Gary Lineker advertisements made it market leader.

Job fears at Fokker grow as Far East bid fails to appear

David Gow

NEARLY 8,000 employees at Fokker, the Dutch plane-maker, left work yesterday convinced they would receive redundancy notices this weekend after a moon deadline for a Far East bid for their firm passed in near-total silence.

tors could follow the example set by DAI, the car and truck manufacturer, and file for bankruptcy overnight or early this morning. These fears were heightened by the silence from Samsung of South Korea and Avic, the Chinese aircraft manufacturer, both of which had expressed interest in acquiring all or part of Fokker.

Table with columns: TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS, Australia 1.91, France 7.42, Italy 2.82, Singapore 2.11, Belgium 44.75, Germany 1.850, Netherlands 2.46, Spain 1.83, Canada 2.02, Hong Kong 11.57, New Zealand 2.19, Sweden 1.75, Cyprus 0.6975, India 51.22, Norway 9.54, Switzerland 1.28, Denmark 8.43, Ireland 0.9560, Portugal 229, Turkey 25.51, Finland 6.91, Israel 4.70, Saudi Arabia 5.87, USA 1.4900



£87m profit for MGN • Losses on Independent set to be eliminated • Live TV promises viewer figures

# Mirror seeks way round media laws

Lisa Buckingham

**M**IRROR Group Newspapers is looking at ways to circumvent the provisions of the Government's planned media legislation, which the company said yesterday it regarded as discriminatory.

MGN, whose newspapers are regarded as supporters of the Labour Party, suggested that ownership rules contained in the Broadcasting Bill were politically inspired to be contrary to MGN's interests.

MGN and Rupert Murdoch's News International are each prohibited from bidding for an ITV company because they have more than 20 per cent of the newspaper market.

But News International already owns 40 per cent of BSkyB, whereas MGN's television interests are limited to a nascent cable operation, Live TV, and a 20 per cent stake in Scottish Television.

Mirror Group is now looking to a future Labour Government to change the media ownership regulations.

David Montgomery, MGN's chief executive, said his company had no plans to bid for an ITV company but it did not want to be disadvantaged.

He admitted holding recent discussions with Michael Green's Carlton Communications, which owns Carlton TV and the Central franchise, but said the subject of a bid for MGN had not been raised.

Mr Montgomery's criticism of the planned media legislation came as Mirror Group unveiled profits of £87.2 million against £94.7 million last year.

Although Mirror Group still faces price competition in Scotland, it said the circulation of all its major titles was increasing and that financial pressures were reducing.

The company, which will raise the price of the Mirror by 3p to 30p while the Sun intends a similar increase to 27p, said it was confident that newsprint prices had peaked.

The cost of newsprint has risen from £39 a tonne in 1994, when the company's annual bill was £38 million, to £52.0 a tonne.

Mr Montgomery said that newsprint is likely to cost the group — which uses 250,000 tonnes a year — about £134 million this year.

MGN's share of the losses from the Independent and Independent on Sunday, in which it has a 43 per cent stake (estimated to have cost more than £40 million), are set to be eliminated this year.

Mr Montgomery said that the Independent group had lost £50.8 million in the 15 months to the end of 1994, a figure which included the cost of extensive redundancies. In the latest financial year, losses shrank to £18.9 million, and Mr Montgomery estimates they will be about £7 million this year, with MGN picking up £3 million of that — a figure offset by earnings.

He said Live TV was expected to cost only £25 million rather than the originally estimated £30 million to establish, and should break even within three years. The group said that viewership figures for the channel, best known for anarchic stunts and bizarre devices such as its "news bunny", should be available next month.



David Montgomery, flanked by Live TV's 'news bunnies', attacks government media plans PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON WEBB

## News in brief

### OfTel urges access to BT database

COMPANIES should be allowed to make copies of British Telecom's directory database, which contains nearly 20 million names, addresses and phone numbers, Don Cruickshank, OfTel's director general, said yesterday. The regulator believes improvement in the market for directory products and the move would open up the market for directory products and services or make numbers available on CD-Roms or through computer-based on-line services.

### UK set to lead growth

BRITAIN is set to lead Europe to stronger economic growth, according to an international survey on business expectations published today. The UK was one of the few markets expecting improvement in the first quarter of 1996, said Dun & Bradstreet Corporation.

The survey recorded the sixth consecutive drop in global expectations for net sales and the fifth consecutive decline in forecast net profits. Although the European region registered the sharpest decline in expectations, the UK reported stronger optimism about sales, profits and prices. — Sarah Ryle

### TradePoint seeks AIM listing

TRADEPOINT, the electronic trading system set up as a rival to the Stock Exchange, yesterday announced plans to seek a listing on the Alternative Investment Market, AIM, by next month. The company, which currently enjoys a listing on the Vancouver stock exchange, said the listing would leave it well positioned for the next stage in its development.

Since its launch last September, TradePoint has seen a rapid expansion in its business and now has around 60 participating firms. The exchange uses an "order driven" system, where market players post orders to buy or sell shares on an electronic bulletin board. — Ian King

### Power firm must pay out

AN unnamed regional electricity company (REC) has been ordered to pay £40 to each of two customers who complained that power supplies were cut unnecessarily last July. The cuts, on July 10, followed adverse weather. Yesterday's ruling by the industry watchdog, Professor Stephen Littlechild, is the first compensation order under rules laid down to guarantee minimum standards of service.

A further 16 cases are still before Prof Littlechild. Last night officials at OfTel refused to name the company, citing privatisation law. One REC predicted the ruling could have widespread implications for the industry, which previously has resolved customer complaints without involving OfTel. — Chris Barrie

### Milken faces new inquiry

MICHAEL Milken, the former junk-bond king, has become the target of a widening investigation by the US Securities and Exchange Commission for buying a large number of shares in Hasbro, a toy maker that was a takeover target for rival company Mattel in January.

Mr Milken, whose junk bonds fuelled some of the big takeovers in the 1980s, is already under scrutiny for his role in the Turner Warner's pending \$7.5 billion takeover of Ted Turner's Time Broadcasting System. The takeover is being studied by the Justice Department's anti-trust division. — Mark Tran in New York

### Skills plea by CBI chief

BRITAIN needs long-term improvements to infrastructure and skills if its economic performance is to make the leap from merely adequate to really good, Adam Turner, the director-general of the CBI, said last night. Mr Turner said business had to put its own house in order, because the UK had a "longer tail" of poor performing companies than other countries.

But, it was vital the Government ensured that school leavers had better basic skills, better attitudes and a better understanding of the world of work, he told a meeting in Bristol. — Larry Elliott

### Rolls workers reject offer

ROLLS-ROYCE manual workers in Bristol yesterday rejected a 4 per cent pay offer in a dispute which has already led to an overtime ban at the plant for the past 23 weeks. Hourly-paid workers at the Derby aerospace plant have already turned down the 4 per cent offer. — Seamus Milne

### Enterprise profits double

ENTERPRISE Oil yesterday appeared to have exorcised memories of its failed £1.6 billion bid for rival Lasso, after more than doubling full year pre-tax profits to £201.2 million. Shares of Enterprise rose 33p to 420p, after the company revealed exploration successes in Scandinavia, Italy and Britain. — Ian King

## Lang questioned over skill centre firms inquiry

Sarah Whitebloom

IAN Lang, the Trade Secretary, was questioned last night over investigations by his department into firms linked to the convicted forger Patrick Doyle, whose now-collapsed AST group bought a large slice of the Government's former Astra training network in 1993.

Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, called on Mr Lang, in a parliamentary question, to disclose what investigations were under way and he asked what representations he had had relating to the fitness of AST's directors and Mr Doyle — who is prime mover behind the companies.

In 1993 the Guardian disclosed concerns over AST's acquisition of skills centres from Astra's receivers, including the facts that Mr Doyle had been jailed in 1986 for a £700,000 forgery attempt

and was effectively barred in 1991 from involvement with some training schools in the United States.

Just 18 months later the AST group collapsed, owing millions of pounds to more than a third of a million to the Department of Employment and another vehicle controlled by Mr Doyle, Firlands Training, took over business and staff from the defunct enterprise.

A spokesman for Firlands said last night: "There has been a DTI inquiry... for about five to six months." He admitted that company directors and senior staff had been interviewed, saying: "There is not a single person who does not welcome a government inquiry."

The man, who refused to give his name but insisted he was not Mr Doyle, added: "The government cutbacks in training have been a public disgrace and required investi-

gation." He went on to say that allegations by "a Labour MP" had lost Firlands a contract with a Welsh Training and Enterprise Council, leading to a number of job cuts. "He should bury himself in a river somewhere," said the Firlands' spokesman. Mr Morgan admitted last night

to critics who have consistently alleged that the ministers' stance amounted to flagrant negligence in respect of the skills network and the former civil servants who staffed it.

In its heyday the Astra centres were the linchpin of government training policy, with 60 outlets around the country training around 168,000 people a year.

At the time of the 1993 sale, the Department of Employment argued that, since Astra had already been privatised, AST's acquisition of the skills centres was not a matter for ministers.

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## Bright gleam of Reckitt is not all that it seems

Outlook

Pauline Springett

**T**HE headline profit was dramatic, but the underlying figures, as so often with Reckitt & Colman, were more mundane. The sharp rise in pre-tax profits was fuelled mainly by the £10.4 million profit on the sale of its Norwich food and drinks business, including Colman's mustard, to Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch conglomerate.

Stripped down to basics, it came in at £285.1 million, at the lower end of analysts' expectations.

Nevertheless, the chief executive, Vernon Sankey, insisted the company's strategy was going according to plan. Reckitt was set to become "the world's leading household products company".

Reckitt was not, he said, in the business of competing with the likes of Unilever and Procter & Gamble, which mass-marketed detergents and soap powders. It was focused on selling niche household cleaning products and over-the-counter drugs.

So far, the main thrust of this strategy has been the £1 billion purchase at the end of 1994 of the US household cleaning products group, L&F. Reckitt spent last year trying to digest this huge purchase and reckons the process is largely complete. True, there were some unpleasant mid-year hiccupes produced by the amalgamation of different stock systems. That cost a painful \$60 million, but Mr Sankey said it was a one-off.

Reckitt is not planning any more significant US acquisitions.

Indeed, over the next two years it is not expecting to make any large purchases at all, although a series of £20 million to £30 million deals are likely in Asia and Latin America.

Although this is a strategic decision, it is also driven by a desire acknowledged by Mr Sankey to reduce debt. Reckitt's net debt at the end of the year was £536 million, compared to a surplus at the end of 1994 of £43.6 million.

In the UK and continental Europe, the big success story was over-the-counter drugs

business, which saw a 6 per cent increase in sales.

Mr Sankey said Reckitt did not spend a great deal on research and development, tending to make its goods from ingredients no longer under patent. "The skill is in the branding and assembling of the products," he said, citing the success of the flu remedy, Lemsip.

Mr Sankey said the long-term plan was to enhance earnings by adding value to its goods. This sounded like shorthand for being able to put the price up if people are persuaded they are getting more for their money.

"What is important is to buy the best products available. It's about value, not price," he said, explaining that people bought Reckitt's specialised cleaning products once or twice a year and were motivated by whether they did a good job rather than price.

Mr Sankey said the UK market was different from others in this respect because of the power of large retail chains with cheaper own-brand products. But he pointed out that 82 per cent of sales were outside the UK.

Reckitt's next thrust will be in Latin America and Asia, where the public does tend to be influenced by brand names and where the company has had encouraging results. Last year, for instance, sales in eastern Asia rose by 25 per cent while those in Brazil jumped by a fifth.

But these are also markets where things have a tendency to go swiftly wrong. Reckitt will be hoping that its recent taste of what it called the "tequila" effect, in both Argentina and Mexico, does not become too familiar.

## Clinton snubs China's 'stall sanctions for planes' deal

Mark Tran in New York

**T**HE Clinton administration yesterday brushed aside a Chinese offer to formally announce a \$4 billion order for passenger planes from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas in return for a string of large orders from Asian countries.

China is expected to place orders for 30 Boeings, valued at \$3 billion based on list prices, including five 747s, 10 of the new big two-engine 777 planes and numerous smaller 737 airliners. McDonnell is expected to win an order for 20 MD-90s valued at \$1 billion.

China has used the prospect of big aircraft orders as leverage before, particularly to win renewal of most favoured nation trading status every June. By dangling the possibility of such orders, China ensures a lobbying drive by American manufacturers to win MFN renewal.

The US has poured cold water on the Chinese proposal. Trade officials said that sanctions would not be delayed. The US wants the Chinese government to close factories that pirate American products such as compact discs and computer software.

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## Textile jobs going abroad as Coats loses thread

Tony May

**C**OATS Viyella, Britain's biggest textile firm, yesterday launched a surprise £50 million restructuring plan which will shift more production to low-cost countries.

The move follows a 6.2 per cent fall in profits to £152.4 million for 1995, blamed on raw material price increases which almost halved margins in the clothing division. The firm decided to overhaul its clothing, thread and home furnishings divisions by shifting resources.

The company would not be drawn on the implications for its 18,000 UK production employees as no discussions had been held with them.

One industry source said that while many cutting and stitching jobs might go overseas, other more added-value jobs would be created. But thousands of jobs are likely to go across the UK textile industry as all companies face a similar problem.

The chief executive, Neville Bain, said the trigger for change was the elimination of the global multi-fibre agreement quotas by 2005.

Coats will keep large-scale production in this country to serve its biggest customer, Marks and Spencer, which last year increased its business from £285 million to £396 million.

But UK production, which is 80 per cent of the total, will fall to a minimum of 50 per cent.

Mr Bain said: "It will be a wide-sweeping programme of approximately 50 different projects designed to improve efficiency and productivity of the group."

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CHELTEMHAM FESTIVAL

One Man finishes like a 'clapped-out banger' as the Irish champion romps away with the Gold Cup. Chris Hawkins reports

Imperial Call lives up to the blarney

SO NOW we know it wasn't just blarney. The stories filtering across the Irish Sea about the brilliance of Imperial Call were true and at Cheltenham yesterday he won the Tote Gold Cup with a flawless display of jumping, stamina and speed.

Rough Quest came from behind to be beaten four lengths, but the rest were nowhere. It was 19 lengths back to the third, Couldn't Be Better, and another 25 to One Man, the 11-8 favourite, who staggered up the hill utterly exhausted in sixth.



Shamrock heroes... Imperial Call and Conor O'Dwyer are mobbed by the Irish racegoers after their Gold Cup victory

But approaching the second last Dunwoody felt One Man falter and in a matter of strides he went from a beautifully tuned racing machine to a clapped-out banger.

Gordon Richards, his trainer, was perplexed by the sudden capitulation and asked for a dope test.

Usually when horses don't stay they gradually run out of puff, but this fellow's just stopped," said Richards. "He jumped well and travelled well and at the third last I thought we'd win. But he got tired very quickly and if he hadn't been third jumping the last I'd have pulled him up."

Thrown in with 9st 13lb in the Martell Grand National, but his trainer, Terry Casey, is far from sure he will run. "The owners are not greedy people and at the moment I would think the Irish National is more likely than Amreeb, but we'll have to wait," said Casey.

Young Hustler, whose objective has long been the National, finished fifth and did not have a hard race. He is a 10-1 chance for Liverpool with Coral's, but Hill's, who have Rough Quest 6-1 favourite, still quote him at 14-1, which looks good value.

There's something about this place," he said. "Who would have believed that all those great horses like Alderbrook, Sound Man, Viking Flagship, Mr Mulligan and One Man would all get beat?"

Richard Dunwoody was badly shaken when Martin's Leap fell fatally in the Grand Annual Chase at Cheltenham yesterday but will ride at Fakenham today. Dunwoody won the Ritz Trophy as leading jockey at the meeting with two winners, beating Warren Marston, who also had two, by dint of the greater number of placeings. Charlie Swan was suspended for six days starting March 23 for irresponsible riding on Magical Lady in the Triumph Hurdle. The stewards found that Magical Lady had interfered with Embellished approaching the final flight, causing him to fall. When Born To Be Wild was put down after falling in the Triumph, Martin Pipe must have been in the depths of despair. It was the third horse he had lost at the meeting. But nothing can equal the ups and downs of racing and half an hour later the smile was back on Pipe's face as Cyborgo got the better of a titanic struggle with Mysliv in the Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle. Cyborgo had been off the course for a year with a series of niggling problems since finishing second in this race to Doran's Pride, and his win was a great tribute to Pipe's skills. Above all, however, it was a tribute to Cyborgo's seemingly bottomless courage. After attempting to lead throughout he was clarified after jumping the second last by Mysliv, but refused to let her pass. It was nip-and-tuck all the way up the run-in, but at the line Cyborgo had forged ahead to win by three-quarters of a length. David Bridgwater gave Cyborgo too much assistance in the opinion of the stewards, who handed him a two-day whip ban.

Fakenham runners and riders with form

Table listing race details for Fakenham, including race numbers, names, and participants. Includes sections for 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 4.60, 4.70, 4.80, 4.90, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 13.00, 13.10, 13.20, 13.30, 13.40, 13.50, 14.00, 14.10, 14.20, 14.30, 14.40, 14.50, 15.00, 15.10, 15.20, 15.30, 15.40, 15.50, 16.00, 16.10, 16.20, 16.30, 16.40, 16.50, 17.00, 17.10, 17.20, 17.30, 17.40, 17.50, 18.00, 18.10, 18.20, 18.30, 18.40, 18.50, 19.00, 19.10, 19.20, 19.30, 19.40, 19.50, 20.00, 20.10, 20.20, 20.30, 20.40, 20.50, 21.00, 21.10, 21.20, 21.30, 21.40, 21.50, 22.00, 22.10, 22.20, 22.30, 22.40, 22.50, 23.00, 23.10, 23.20, 23.30, 23.40, 23.50, 24.00, 24.10, 24.20, 24.30, 24.40, 24.50, 25.00, 25.10, 25.20, 25.30, 25.40, 25.50, 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Winging in... Underwood scores one of the tries, this time against Scotland, that have helped him towards the 88th cap he wins tomorrow against Ireland

# Underwood defies age barrier

**Robert Armstrong on the England wing hoping tomorrow will not be his last game**

IT IS possible that Rory Underwood will be making his last appearance for England in tomorrow's Five Nations Championship match against Ireland at Twickenham when he wins his 88th cap.

By the time England host their next international, against Italy on November 16, the Leicester and Lions wing will be 33 years and five months old, an age at which the great majority of Test three-quarters have retired, either on their own initiative or at the behest of the selectors.

Underwood's desire to keep trotting out in an England shirt is as sharp as ever and he has shown in timed sprints that he is as fast as he was 10 years ago. Certainly he has the explosive pace to plunder

New Zealand does not play for the money, welcome though that is, but simply because he enjoys the challenge.

He will not admit that there may never be another wing quite like him, especially in terms of longevity, but the pressure to score tries and to keep winning in Test Rugby will cut down most players before they rack up 50 caps, never mind 88.

If Underwood represents a fast-fading age of innocence, he also embodies the contemporary obsession with success, hence his important role in England's three Grand Slams since 1990.

"I feel strong enough to come back next season and help England win more games," he declared. "My body has not been giving out warning signals, the management are happy, the club is happy and I feel good about my rugby."

The man who scored a brace of tries in last year's World Cup semi-final against

the mistake of formally announcing his retirement again, having done so in 1992 only to return to the England squad by the end of the year.

"This season I got a lot of stick after the South Africa and Western Samoa games. The message was that I should be taken to the knackers' yard and put away," he recalled.

"I think people generally have been very harsh on England, given the number of fresh faces in the side. Maybe we are not playing as well as we have done in previous years, but if you wanted results overnight you would not pick the team we've got with new players making up a third of it. The young guys have been under pressure straight away but have actually done very well. They are very hard and they just get stuck in and give their best."

In contrast to the likes of Jon Sleightholme, who wins his fourth cap tomorrow, Underwood has been around so long that it is easy to overlook his part in victories over every major rugby power. The scalps of the southern hemisphere nations are especially cherished, none more than Australia's in last year's World Cup triumph. For all that, on an individual level Underwood regards his most formidable opponent as Iwan Evans, his old Lions team-mate.

The French wings, Saint-André and Niamack, are tremendous competitors, very difficult to defend against, and Simon Geoghegan is unpredictable and always gives 100 per cent, but Iwan is the wing I have the greatest respect for," he said. "I admire the courage and ambition he displayed in coming back so many times after injuries."

"During matches we don't bother with silly stuff like

# Carling puts pride before points

WILL CARLING yesterday insisted that his final game as England captain tomorrow represented an opportunity to win the Triple Crown rather than merely a chance to rotund off his leadership in spectacular style, writes Robert Armstrong.

He said anything less than a committed team effort could see England come badly unstuck, so his relinquishing the captaincy had to be regarded as secondary.

"No doubt I will feel sad and a bit emotional about stepping down by Saturday

evening, but the game is there to be won and I will have to concentrate on doing my job as captain," he said. "It has been my life for the past eight years and I want to get it right on the day. Anyway, I hope it is not my last time out with England."

Carling denied that the slim prospect of winning the championship by making up a points-difference deficit of 22 on France, the favourites, who meet Wales, would influence England's tactics against Ireland, who won at Twickenham two years ago.

"This season we haven't done ourselves justice as a team, but it would be disrespectful to the Irish to go into the game thinking how many points we might score," he said.

"If you do that things can go horribly wrong and rightly so. We will go out simply to win the match, and our strategy won't change no matter what the French are doing. We have a very good record at Twickenham over the past three years and we want to preserve it. We want to play successful rugby but beating the Irish by a big margin is not a realistic goal."

Carling hoped that his final team talk as captain would make a telling impact on his players. "I'll try to capture the mood of the side and provide a hook to bang our confidence on. We are very proud of each other and of the sort of players we are."

● The England Under-21 squads to play France at Bath on April 19 and Italy away on May 11 will be coached by Clive Woodward of London Irish with Bath's Andy Robinson as his assistant. They replace Stan Liprott, who remains a selector, and Adrian Gouldstone.

## WORLD CUP CRICKET

# Calcutta cloud has silver lining

**David Hopps on referee Clive Lloyd's riot measures**

IF ANY good came from the hoodlumism that forced the abandonment of India's World Cup semi-final against Sri Lanka in Calcutta on Wednesday, it was a recognition that the International Cricket Council's recently introduced system of match referees had passed one of its most demanding tests.

While police showed little inclination to curb the protests, and nobody — not even West Bengal's chief minister Jyoti Basu, who croaked off to the West Indies to make an appeal for calm, Clive Lloyd, the referee appointed for the semi-final, took swift and decisive action.

From the moment that he emerged on the Eden Gardens outfield the ICC response was firm and assured. Immediately he made it plain to all parties that if attempts to restart the game proved abortive he would have no hesitation in awarding the match to Sri Lanka.

The assertion of his authority ensured that an unruly if not particularly disturbing situation did not deteriorate further.

The umpires, who had been uncertain what course to take when the news of South Africa's decision to play in Calcutta, in contrast to Pakistan where there has been a passion only for nationalism, Calcutta had cheered Australia and England in the 1987 final and had come to a standstill when the South Africa team visited in 1992, but in Kipling's phrase, on Wednesday night it really did become the City of Dreadful Night.

● Police yesterday posted a precautionary guard at the Hyderabad home of the Indian cricket board's tournament officials, some of whom are not exactly immune to strutting displays of self-importance, had no opportunity to politicise and distort events to save face. To see

them trailing in Lloyd's wake like respectful courtiers was a most uplifting sight.

The ICC chief executive David Richards was among those who praised Lloyd's swift intervention. It has not been a good few months for the ICC, which has lacked the authority to intervene on issues such as the bribery allegations made against Salim Malik, the calling of Sri Lanka's off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing, and the chaos after Australia and the West Indies forfeited their matches in Colombo.

As a former West Indies captain, Lloyd was aware of Eden Gardens' volatile reputation. In 1966, West Indies beat India there in three days and the West Indians were playing their matches in Colombo.

Seventeen years later West Indies defeated India in three days, and two India players, Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev, were pelted with fruit. Gavaskar resolved never to play there again.

The sadness is that India has been the lifeblood of the World Cup. Discerning crowds have turned out in numbers for neutral matches, displaying a true passion for cricket, in contrast to Pakistan where there has been a passion only for nationalism.

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## Badminton

### Tension helps Hall to fall

Richard Jago in Birmingham

DARREN HALL shrugged off a defeat by the world champion yesterday, but remains optimistic of earning the Atlanta seeding so important if he is to become the first Briton to win a badminton Olympic medal.

The former European champion from Essex lost 15-10, 15-10 to the brilliant Indonesian Heryanto Arbi in the last 16 of the Yonex All England Championships, his performance falling short of the outstanding efforts that earned him the world's top 18. However, in reaching the third round he showed flashes of the improvement that has taken him to his best form in three years.

"I was a bit tense today and didn't move so well," the 30-year-old said, "but generally I feel more like my old self and I'm sure I can challenge for a medal."

His most fluid attacking moments came when he recovered from 4-10 to 9-11 in the first game and from 6-13 to 10-13 in the second against an opponent aiming for his third All England title in four attempts. Hall will learn for certain about the seedings after the qualifying cut-off date on April 1.

Julie Bradbury, Britain's best hope for an Olympic medal, reached two quarter-finals. She and Joanne Wright won 15-4, 15-7 against the Japanese pair Hisako and Yasuko Mizui, and with Simon Archer she beat the Danes Thomas Stavnem and Ann Thomsen 15-11, 15-4 in the mixed doubles.

## Sport in brief

### Tennis

Tim Henman continued in his rich vein of form yesterday by beating the No. 8 seed Marc Gollner 6-3, 6-3 in the Copenhagen ATP tournament. The 21-year-old from Oxford now faces another German, Martin Sinner, who reached the quarter-finals by beating the top-seeded Jan Siemerink.

Britain have selected Sam Smith, Megan Miller and Valda Lake to make their Fed Cup debuts alongside the experienced Clare Wood in the Europe-Africa Group One play-off in La Manga from April 22-28.

Thomas Muster was again beaten within a few days of assuming the No. 1 slot, eliminated 6-3, 7-5 from the £1.5 million Newweek Championships in Indian Wells by the Italian Adrian Panatta.

### Snooker

Stephen Hendry closed in on his fifth title of the season by beating John Parrott, his recent nemesis, 5-1 to reach the semi-finals of the Thailand Open in Bangkok last night, writes Clive Everton.

The world champion, who had failed to overcome Parrott in their three previous meetings, made breaks of 71, 48 and 112 and stole two frames on the pink after Parrott had squandered clear-cut chances. He now faces Ken Doherty, a 5-1 winner over Jamie Woodman.

### Rugby Union

Dewi Bebb, the former Wales and Lions wing, has died aged 57.

### Ice Hockey

The Durham Wasps and Humber Hawks have been fined £1,000 each after their players behaved during the warm-up before their British Championship play-off game last Saturday.

## Golf

### Faldo fretful and forgetful

Davis Davies in Orlando

NICK FALDO, who spends hours using every mechanical and computer-aided device to perfect his swing, fell victim to simple human error in the first round of the Bay Hill Invitational here in Florida yesterday.

Faldo, who eventually finished with a level-par 72 to be five behind the early leaders Mark O'Meara and Paul Goydos, incurred a two-stroke penalty at the 4th when he failed to replace his ball correctly after marking it. That

## Torrance misses birdie rush

Michael Britten in Dubai

MIGUEL-ANGEL Jimenez and Jay Townsend shared 17 birdies and only 51 putts in a spectacular opening to the Dubai Desert Classic at the Emirates Club here yesterday.

The Spaniard had five successive birdies in a home-ward 90 for a nine-under-par 63 and a one-stroke lead over the American, who celebrated his 34th birthday with six birdies in an outward 31.

For each it was a career-best round on the European circuit, but Ernie Els's course record of 61 is far from safe. After three days of heavy rain the near-perfect greens were so inviting that 72 of yesterday's 135 starters beat par.

This must have been frustrating news for Sam Torrance on his way home because of a freak accident on Tuesday, when he strained an ankle ligament pushing a luggage trolley at the airport. The injury failed to respond to treatment and he will have X-rays as soon as he returns to Britain.

Colin Montgomerie, the European No. 1, went round in 87. Despite a heavy cold, the defending champion Fred Couples scored 69, as did Ian Woosnam, Severiano Ballesteros was happy with a 71, seven shots better than his opening round in Morocco last week.

That score would have been even better but for bogeys at the last two holes; he hit a palm tree with his recovery from a sandy waste, then overshot the flag with a greenside chip.

## Cycling

### Rookie Casagrande revels in wet and miserable pile-up

William Fotheringham in Millau

ONE man's misfortune is another's good luck, according to an old French maxim, and no doubt French cyclists were muttering it yesterday here in this little town on the river Tarn in south-west France, after a high-speed crash involving almost one-third of the field in the Paris-Nice handed the rookie professional Stefano Casagrande his maiden stage victory.

The chute collette came on a dizzy descent with 18 miles to go just as the bunch was preparing to reel in the 23-year-old Italian, who had been out front in freezing rain and bitter cold for most of a 102-mile circuit of Millau in the "Race to the Sun".

Not only did the pile-up halt the bunch's impetus, it also brought down many of the team-mates of the sprinters who were expecting to fight out the finish.

Normally Casagrande's break would have been reined in well before the finish by

## Cycling

### Leeds fight on in Innes case

John Huxley

THE walter of legal action in Australia has overshadowed Leeds's attempt to gain compensation from Manly-Warringah for their former All Black wing Craig Innes, but the matter is still the subject of legal action in Sydney.

Innes rejoined Manly after Leeds beat Warrington in the fifth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup at Widderspool on February 10. Leeds' claimant Innes is in contract to them until 1997, promptly began legal proceedings in Sydney. His departure, they said, amounted to inducement by Manly, an Australian Rugby League club.

"This is still a live issue as far as we are concerned," Leeds' chief executive Alf Davies said last night. "Maurice Lindsay, the RFL's chief executive, is briefing our legal advisers in Sydney and our claim is continuing."

Lindsay flew to Australia this week to support Rupert Murdoch's Super League in its appeal against Justice Burchett's judgment for the ARL. No transfer or compensation agreements are yet in place between the warring leagues but Innes is the only player signed from Britain by the ARL who has left with what

## Rugby League

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appears to be unexpired contract-time.

Meanwhile the Wigan chairman Jack Robinson, who denies corruption allegations made by a newspaper this week, yesterday claimed to have the full support of his board of directors. "There are several inaccuracies in the story," he said.

Mike Gregory, the former Great Britain tour captain, will appear before the RFL's board of directors on Tuesday in an attempt to be allowed to take up the post of assistant coach at St Helens, Salford, who paid Warrington £30,000 for his services almost two years ago, are blocking the move because Gregory still has three months of his playing contract to serve with them.

League bylaws forbid players to take jobs with other clubs except under exceptional circumstances, and Gregory is expected to tell the League directors that he has retired as a player, and that Helens will give an assurance that they will not register him as a player at any level.

St Helens' stand-off Tommy Martyn, who has not played since major knee surgery last September, has been passed fit for the start of the Super League campaign on March 31 and the Challenge Cup final at Wembley on April 27.

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the team-mates of fast men such as Mario Cipollini and the winner of the second stage, Wilfried Nelissen, but yesterday they were either licking their wounds or struggling to regain the bunch.

It was left to Chris Boardman's GAN team and the race leader Laurent Jalabert's ONCE squad to make the running in the lead group of 34 riders who survived the prang. In the end Casagrande held on by only 25cc.

Jalabert, having shown himself strongest uphill in the previous two days, proved himself one of the fastest on the flat by outprinting Boardman's team-mate Frédéric Moncassin for second place, taking a 6cc bonus to edge further ahead of the American Lance Armstrong.

The Frenchman were grim and grimy after what amounted to four hours in a cold shower of dirty water. "At one point I wanted to put on a second rain-jacket," said Boardman. "I had to stop because I couldn't bend my arms, they were so cold."



Legal bid to devalue Bruno fight, page 14
Italian soccer grinds to a halt, page 14

Montgomerie opens his campaign, page 15
Rory Underwood's swansong?, page 15

SportsGuardian

WORLD CUP CRICKET

Mike Selvey in Chandigarh sees Shane Warne spin Australia to victory from the jaws of defeat and into Sunday's final

West Indies sink in panic

AUSTRALIA, who refused to play Sri Lanka a month ago in Colombo, cannot feel relaxed about facing them in the final in Lahore on Sunday after a nerve-racking victory over West Indies here last night.

Mark Taylor, the most complete international captain at present, manipulated his side to victory by five runs as Richie Richardson's dream of carrying the World Cup into retirement disappeared before his eyes in the Mohali Stadium. Asked to make only 206 to win and go through to the final, West Indies' temperamental batsmen panicked without reason.

Three balls remained when Damien Fleming, entrusted to bowl the last over with West Indies requiring nine to win... a tie would have been sufficient because of their win over Australia in the qualifying round - beat Courtney Walsh's abject lunge and clipped the top of middle stump, Richardson, helpless

Table with cricket scores for Australia and West Indies, including player names and runs scored.

at the other end and desperate to regain the strike, could only watch in dismay.

"Unbelievable really," he said afterwards. He has spoken no truer words. His unbeaten 49 is possibly his last innings in international cricket.

West Indies had done all the hard work and at 165 for two, with nine overs remaining and a sensible partnership between Richardson and Shivnarine Chanderpaul already worth 72. It ought to have been plain sailing. But 51 deliveries later it was all over as calm reason was replaced



You beauty... Ian Bishop heads off in an embarrassed hurry after being trapped leg-before by a delighted Shane Warne

steer them home. Instead, in came Roger Harper to slog, and when he departed rapidly - leg-before to McGrath - he was followed by Otis Gibson, who encountered trampoline bounce from Warne and was deemed to have edged to the wicketkeeper.

It was the first wicket in a marvellous pressure spell from Warne, the eventual Man of the Match, which was to bring him the further wickets of Adams and Ian Bishop, who apparently thinks flipper is a dolphin.

Michael Bevan, cautiously at first and then more expansively, put together a fifth-wicket partnership of 138 which ended when Law was run out for 78 as they tried to push the scoring in the last 10 overs. Bevan followed in the next over, driving Harper to extra cover, but Healy nipped the ball while scampering 31 crucial runs.

Waugh is known as the Ice Man and once more he kept his cool when it mattered. As the ball sped to the boundary he furrowed his brow. Then he produced the loveliest little leg-cutter one ever saw. It drifted into the left-hander and opened him up like a can of Heinz's finest before darting away, ghosting past the outside edge and clipping the off stump. It was a delivery that deserved to win any match.

Mary P finds another bad habit to break



Stephen Bierley

URING the 1964 Tokyo Olympics Mary Peters, who at Arthur McAllister as president of the British Athletic Federation, shared a room with her athletics idol Mary Rand. They banged a nail into the wall and joked about hanging their gold medals on it.

Eight years later Mary P emulated Rand with a gold medal and a world record in the Munich pentathlon. In the bowels of the stadium she shared a cigarette with the German Heidiemarie Rosendahl, whom she had beaten by a mere 10 points. On that final nip-and-tuck day they smoked a packet each.

Mary P has stopped smoking since. Cynics might argue that joining the BAF will be enough to drive her back to it. By any standards British athletics had a rotten year in 1995. True, there were world championship medals for Jonathan Edwards, Kelly Holmes, Steve Backley and Tony Jarrett, but these successes were played out against a backdrop of contractual wrangles, falling attendances, disenchanted sponsors and seemingly endless back-biting.

the challenges of the next century. Here were bold, far-reaching ideas, yet what everyone really wants to know is what Radford said to the world record holder Colin Jackson which prompted the hurdler to turn his back on domestic events this year.

The BAF is not self-financing; it relies on income from sponsors and television. Yet the image the sport portrayed for much of last year was one of disorder and confusion. Internal conflict was there for all to see, and what could not be seen was immediately leaked. No wonder sponsors and TV questioned their own commitment.

It is doubtful whether any other sport in this country can match the volume of gossip that athletics generates. Stand at any bar at a domestic meeting and the chance of finding anybody talking about an athletic achievement is remote. Everybody will be slagging off the federation or its officials.

One of the federation's main problems, with its ruling management board and council, is that far too many people are involved in the decision-making process. Not only are they their TV audiences potential, but athletes' contracts remain unresolved. Moreover, for all the federation's optimism about the closed Olympic trials in June and the medals in Atlanta, there is every possibility that the sport's medal haul in Atlanta will be no better than last year's five medals at the world championships in Gothenburg. Then what price 1997?

Ireland's Gold Cup overflows

Paul Weaver savours the jubilation as the 9-2 second favourite Imperial Call romps to victory by four lengths at Cheltenham

IN THE end the horse people and the horse people of Ireland had their but-bling-tricol-our-waving, raucous day of ecstasy as Imperial Call charged home at 9-2 to win the Gold Cup by four lengths and ignite extraordinary scenes of celebration in the winners' circle.

The triumphant jockey, the 29-year-old Conor O'Dwyer, was florid and smiling, glowing like an advertisement for drinking chocolate. "I've never had a reception like that and I don't think I will again," he said. "I thought they were going to drag me off the horse at the end. It was unbelievable.

Sutherland paid about £20,000 for Imperial Call. He was impressed after seeing him jump just one fence indoors four years ago and put the money down after he jumped the second. Sutherland, a 64-year-old Old Etonian, followed the festival's first two days on TV. "I'd prefer to listen to the experts telling me what's happening. I don't want to go spivving about bumping into people every five yards."

nasagart mountains, where he trains a small team of six horses. His mother, 93, is still there. He gave up hunting only five years ago and it is said he once swam Manchester's River Irwell for a bet. "I've certainly swum a few rivers," he said, "but I forget which ones."

He is not unknown among British racing folk. As long ago as 1958, when he was based at Newmarket's Carburg Stables and in his first year with a licence, he trained A.20 to win the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot. This is not the first time these green, undulating Gloucestershire hills have been colonised by the Irish. They sang "Here we go, here we go", "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" and finally "The Banks of My Own Lovely Lee". It is the anthem of Cork and they were probably singing it there too.

Guardian Crossword No 20,601

Set by Pasquale

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and clues for Across and Down.

6 Great armies? 11 destroyed with the passing of wars (6)
8 A poet hiding love - that's what I often do (5)
13 9 could have them - O, start boom swinging! (10)
16 9 (as seen repeating in 25) wades awkwardly to the rising sun? (8)
18 Attempts to gather a collection of books with 9's songs (8)
19 Very uncommunicative type in bed below 9? (6)
21 Discharge nude 9 when drunk - awful sire to be banished (6)
22 Combined soldier-9 confusing 12 (6)
24 What were found in school tables? 9's records? (4)

"I was manically depressed in my twenties when I destroyed the Police, but then most bands are like that. Look at Oasis. Boys will be boys and then we have to grow up. I'm 44, but I'll take anybody on. I'll run you around the block. I'll fight you and write better songs. I'm just as competitive as I ever was."

Sting

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